

PUBLIC
CHARACTERS

OF

1798.

" ——— I wish no other herald,
" No other speaker of my *living actions*,
" To keep mine honour from corruption,
" But such an honest chronicler——."

HEN. 8. Act 4. Sc. 2.

" ——— Hic nigræ fucus, loliginis, hæc est
" Ærugo mera : quod vitium procul affore chartis,
" Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me
" Possum aliud vere, promitto."

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

DUBLIN.

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1799.



TO THE KING.

SIRE,

AS the accustomed forms of society do not permit YOUR MAJESTY to mix with your subjects at large, and to acquire, in person, a distinct and particular knowledge of their respective merits, actions, and characters, these Biographical Sketches are submitted and addressed to you, with peculiar propriety, and with profound respect.

That YOUR MAJESTY may thus, in some measure, be enabled to appreciate their distinguished talents, to respect their illustrious virtues, and to reward their useful and meritorious actions, during the continuance of a lengthened, happy, and prosperous reign, is the fervent wish, and devout prayer, of

Your Majesty's
most humble and
most obedient

Subjects and Servants,

THE EDITORS.

The following are the names of the persons who have been appointed as members of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufacturers:

Mr. J. B. Connelley, President, American Cyanamid Co., New York
Mr. C. F. Johnson, Vice-President, General Electric Co., Schenectady, N.Y.
Mr. Wm. H. Rouse, Secretary, National Association of Manufacturers, Washington, D.C.

be left with the same result of

P R E F A C E.

THE object of the Work which is now submitted to the Public, is to exhibit, in the memoirs of the illustrious actors, the public and secret history of the present times. Respectable works, of a similar description, have been published in various countries on the continent; none, however, have hitherto been attempted, upon the same plan, in this country.

BIOGRAPHY, in all its forms, is allowed to be the most fascinating and instructive species of literary composition. It not only possesses all the advantages of general history, the various excellencies of which may be judiciously interwoven with the lives of eminent personages, but it frequently discovers the minute and latent springs of great events; which, in the comprehensive range of history, would have escaped attention.

Many of the attractions of Biography in general, and some additional advantages, are possessed by *contemporary Biography*. The memoirs of men, who are the present actors on the great theatre of life, who acquire and demand public confidence, and from whom further results of action or meditation are to be expected, necessarily excite a higher degree of curiosity, than the lives of those who have made their exit from the stage, by whom no future good or evil can be performed or penetrated, and who, "dead, gone, and forgotten," are generally

carried down the stream of oblivion, and swallowed up in the gulph of unregistered mortality.

It must be admitted, that the biographer of deceased persons is better enabled, by the independence of his situation, and a more extensive retrospect, to estimate the degree of virtue and vice, and to appreciate the sum total of merit and demerit with greater precision, than the contemporary biographer, who is restrained, by the extreme delicacy of his undertaking, from giving the finishing stroke to his delineations of character, whose incomplete materials prevent him from deducing general and important conclusions in their proper latitude, and, in many cases, from discriminating between hypocrisy and sincerity. Still, however, a writer of this description is better able to collect facts, and may, in general, be more depended upon, as to the authenticity of his testimony, than he who writes the lives of deceased persons. Many eminent men, respecting whom posterity have cause to lament the deficiency of biographical information, have passed their early days in obscurity, and those who then knew them were either too ignorant, or too unobservant, to be able to make any communications respecting them. When death has once set his seal upon their labours, few or no opportunities offer of obtaining satisfactory and circumstantial information; their early contemporaries are, probably, also, gone off the stage. From causes like these, how little is known of some of the most distinguished luminaries that have irradiated the political and literary hemispheres! Of many we know only, that they filled elevated situations, that they composed splendid works, made important discoveries, died in a particular year, and were at length interred in some venerable repository of the dead.

An annual publication like the present will best provide against a future deficiency of this kind, with regard to the distinguished personages who now fill up the drama of public life in the British empire. The Editors are not likely to commit themselves,

themselves, and the reputation of their work, by inserting direct falsehoods, or partial misrepresentations: no character, of whom they now or may hereafter treat, can be thought insensible to the love of contemporary or posthumous fame; hence, should any undesigned error, or any inaccurate statement, inadvertently escape them, it may be rationally presumed, that the party affected, from a regard to his own reputation, will take the earliest opportunity to correct such misstatements; or that some friend, intimately acquainted with the subject, in the candour and warmth of esteem, may be stimulated to write a more particular and accurate account, for a subsequent edition.

From these premises * may it not be reasonably concluded, that this Work possesses a legitimate claim to public patronage, as well from its promised utility to future biographers and historians, as from its being an highly entertaining and useful assemblage of interesting and important facts and anecdotes?

In respect to the present volume, it is necessary to remark, that the articles are written by a number of gentlemen, whose adopted signatures are affixed to their respective communications. Such a multiplicity of facts, in so extensive and various a group of characters, could not have been supplied by any one or two individuals. Although a delicate task, the mode generally adopted in the composition of this Work, has been to apply to some friend of the party, whose intimate knowledge of the relative facts and circumstances qualified him to do ample justice to the character. This indispensable arrangement, requisite to produce the faithful execution of the volume, has, however, occasioned a variety in the style and manner of the

* Beside other arguments which may be urged in recommendation of this novel undertaking, the Editor might quote the example of some of the most illustrious men in all ages and nations, who have judged it proper to write their own memoirs, and to publish them during their lifetime.

several articles, which, at first sight, may give it a sort of heterogeneous appearance, but will not detract from its real merit in the estimation of the judicious reader.

It is possible that a fastidious observer, or other person more intimately connected with the subject of the several memoirs, may here and there detect some venial error, some trifling anachronism, or apparent misconstruction; for these the Editors can only atone, by expressing their earnest wish for more correct information, which will be thankfully received, and punctually attended to in a future edition. That some inaccuracies are unavoidable in a work of this nature, must naturally be expected by every person accustomed to habits of literary composition, or who possesses sufficient knowledge of the complicated occurrences which mark the career of public and private life.

The Editors are more seriously apprehensive lest, in any instance whatever, they should unfortunately and unintentionally be a means of wounding the acute sensibility, the laudable ambition, or the generous pride of any individual;—no procedure could be more alien to their wishes and intentions. Any representation on the part of those who may think themselves aggrieved, which may be transmitted to the Editors, shall be treated with marked deference and attention. The most scrupulous caution has been exercised, to divest the *tout ensemble* of every appearance of national and political partialities. *No attachment to any particular set of men or opinions, no prejudices against men in place, no prepossessions in favour of men out of place, no bias towards any controverted points of theology, no personal antipathies, no malevolent exaggerations, no invidious disposition to detract from acknowledged virtue or merit, have influenced, in whole or in part, the conduct of the Projector and Conductors of the Work.*

If the present volume should be honoured by a degree of approbation and patronage correspondent to the anxious wishes and expectations of the Editors,

tors, it is their design to present the Public with a similar volume in the course of the year 1799, and to continue the work in each succeeding year. That there will be abundant materials for such a continuation must be obvious, when it is considered, that the following illustrious and prominent characters are omitted in the present volume, only for want of room or competent materials: the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Duke of Grafton, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Kenyon, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Sheridan, Lord Grenville, the Duke of Portland, Earl Howe, Earl St. Vincent, Lord Bridport, Lord Auckland, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Wilberforce, Sir Joseph Banks, Mr. West, Earl Spencer, Earl Fitzwilliam, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Wyndham, the Earl of Lauderdale, the Duke of Leeds, Lord Somerville, and nearly three hundred other eminent and remarkable persons, connected with the political and literary world.

For the sake of variety, no particular arrangement of the articles has been adopted; an attention to the same object has also dictated the multifarious choice of characters. Each reader will probably judge of the requisite degree of publicity annexed to a personage, according to his own peculiar connexions and cast of thinking: it is believed, however, that no character is inserted, which is not justly considered as conspicuous in a very extended circle, and which does not possess a sufficient degree of merit, or original feature, to be properly entitled to public notice.

Communications for the second volume, or corrections of the present, are requested to be addressed to R. PHILLIPS, No. 71, St. Paul's Churchyard, London; or H. COLBERT, No. 136, Capel-street, Dublin.

Portraits given in the Frontispiece, most of which will be found to be as striking Likenesses as any that have appeared, and all of them strongly characteristic.

1. Lord Nelson.
2. Earl Moira.
3. Archbishop of Canterbury.
4. Lord Hood.
5. Chancellor of Ireland.
6. Mr. Kemble.
7. Mr. Thomas Taylor.
8. Dr. Towers.
9. Mr. Fox.
10. Mr. David Williams.
11. Mr. D'Israeli.
12. Mr. George Dyer.
13. Dr. Priestley.
14. Mr. G. Wakefield.
15. Alderman Boydell.
16. Dr. Herschel.
17. Judge Buller.
18. Sir John Sinclair.
19. Dr. Haweis.
20. Bishop of Rochester.
21. Mr. Pitt.
22. Mr. Dundas.
23. Lord Duncan.
24. Mr. A. Newland.
25. Marquis Cornwallis.
26. Mr. Murphy.
27. Bishop of London.
28. Dr. Darwin.
29. Dr. Burney.
30. Mr. Grattan.



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across any of the Portraits.



PUBLIC CHARACTERS,

OF 1798.

THE EARL OF MOIRA.

FEW noblemen have made a more early, or a more meritorious figure in military and civil life, than the illustrious subject of this sketch. Francis, Lord Rawdon, Earl of Moira, was born December the 7th, 1754, and was created a baron of Great Britain in 1783.

Having completed his education about the commencement of the American war, his lordship entered into the army, and embarked with his regiment for that continent, where he took a very active part throughout the whole of the unfortunate contest with the estranged and alienated colonies.

Lord Rawdon's character, from the earliest period, has been uniformly marked for a cool and intrepid courage, governed by that calm serenity of soul which is the result of the most unblemished honor. He gave early proofs of the possession of this enviable qualification, when he was lieutenant of grenadiers at the memorable battle of Bunker's Hill. The late General Burgoyne, who, though not in the action, was familiarly acquainted with its detail, and indeed a spectator of the contest, in a letter written to England makes use of this remarkable expression—"Lord Rawdon has this day stamped his

B

fame

same for life." His lordship was afterwards at the storming of Fort Clinton,

In 1778, he was appointed adjutant-general to the British forces, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton, with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the army. In this capacity he shewed himself not only brave, but active and judicious; and rendered essential service in the hazardous retreat of the British army through the Jerseys, from Philadelphia to New York, and also in the action at Monmouth. He afterwards embarked with the troops for Charlestown, and served at the siege of that place, where he acquitted himself with such singular judgment and distinguished valour, that, notwithstanding his want of years, and consequently presumed in experience, he was appointed to the command of a separate corps in the province of South Carolina. In a short time after, he joined the army under Lord Cornwallis, and at the battle of Camden had the command of one of the divisions, with which he commenced the action, and which proved one of the most brilliant and decisive in favour of the British arms.

During Lord Rawdon's subsequent command in Charlestown, an affair happened in which (through a warm zeal for the service) he appeared to be much implicated; and which, although it has been, and still is, justified by his friends, was severely censured by the Americans, and afterwards condemned by many of the opposition here. It became also an object of enquiry in the House of Lords. He stood, however, perfectly clear on the ground of honor and principle; and the worst insinuation never more than blamed a severe and warm disposition to enforce a rigorous military regulation. With regard to any possible imputation of inhumanity, his lordship's whole life has been of so opposite a complexion, and has been so uniformly marked by traits of the most refined philanthropy, that it never was in the power even of party-obloquy to arraign him in that respect.

Lord



Lord Rawdon on his return to England was created a peer of Great Britain, and nominated one of his Majesty's aids-de-camp.

About this time his lordship's conduct in the affair already alluded to (the execution of Colonel Haynes,) was mentioned by the Duke of Richmond in such a manner as to give great umbrage; sufficient, indeed, to induce Lord Rawdon to call upon his grace for an explanation. After several messages, through the interference of friends, the Duke of Richmond agreed to read such a recantation in the House of Lords, as Lord Rawdon should think proper to dictate.

About the latter end of 1793, he was nominated to the command of a body of troops which was encamped in the neighbourhood of Southampton, and in conjunction with the emigrant corps, was to act offensively against France. The original object of their assembling being shortly after altered for the purpose of strengthening our little army upon the continent, the Earl of Moira embarked with them, and landed at Ostend. In his conduct on this occasion he displayed much military knowledge, sharing every fatigue with the common soldier, and evincing an activity of mind which produced the most beneficial effects. He managed the debarkation in so superior a style of military manœuvre, and continued his march up the country with so much generalship, that the enemy, who lay in the neighbourhood, and were in considerable force, suspended a premeditated attack against our line of posts in Flanders, from a supposition, that Earl Moira's army was four times as numerous as it really was. Under the influence of this first impression, his lordship proceeded on his march, without cannon, and with very little baggage, through an inclosed country, and with a most formidable foe, commanded by one of the first generals in the republican service, constantly hanging upon his flanks. By the rapidity of his motions, which were so well aided by the sagacity of his original manœuvre at the debarkation, he succeeded in joining the Duke of York, whose advanced situa-

tion had become precarious in a high degree. On this occasion his lordship had a most narrow escape: the vanguard of the French army, which by this time had been undeceived with regard to the real strength of the expedition, entering a town at the same instant in which the British rear quitted it. Some partial skirmishes took place at Alost, halfway between Ghent and Brussels; which, although trifling, continued to add to his lordship's military character. Having thus accomplished the object of the expedition, he soon after returned to England, where he remained inactive, although still invested with a sort of command at Southampton.

Lord Rawdon in the House of Peers has proved himself a clear, judicious, and able orator. His exertions to relieve the distressed of persons imprisoned for small debts, will remain a monument of philanthropy upon our parliamentary records; while his manly deportment throughout every debate in this and the sister kingdom serves to prove, that his steadiness as a statesman is not inferior to his intrepidity as a soldier. We will venture to predict, in the face of much prejudice, that whenever the troubles of Ireland shall have subsided, Earl Moira's anticipation of them, and consequent struggles to prevent their explosion, will more than counterbalance any possible misapprehension of the real motives by which the leaders of that rebellion have been actuated. His unequivocal conduct at the late state trials in Maidstone, sufficiently evinces, that the most inveterate foe cannot even insinuate the faintest compromise with their insidious views; whilst the caution and judgment with which he has uniformly conducted himself, when ever the celebrity of his name has drawn him into any species of political intercourse, will mark his character with no small degree of sagacity and penetration.

With regard to Earl Moira's private virtues, we shall not run the hazard of imputed adulation, when we say, that large as are his means, his equally extensive benevolence has made deeper inroads

roads into his fortune, than perhaps that of any other character of the age. Uninfluenced by party-spirit, whenever individual merit has been brought within the circle of his observation, and viewing that merit through the impartial optics of general philanthropy, without suffering a prejudice to intervene from the want of high birth or family connexion, he has on more occasions than one, forerun the most sanguine expectations; and when it has no longer been in his power to assist the different objects of his patronage, he has softened the hardship of disappointment by the most friendly marks of sincerity and attention. It is, therefore, the less surprising, that in his retirement he should uniformly have escaped—what few good men do escape—the ingratitude of any one person who has ever been employed under, or been countenanced by his lordship.

With an acknowledged character of his high and honorable species, it is natural, that his access to the first branches of the royal family, should be easy, and that he should be always distinguished by the strongest marks of confidence and familiarity. The latter epithet is the more appropriate, because his reception at Carlton and York Houses is ever marked by the most unequivocal testimonies of friendship. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, whose cause he warmly espoused in the memorable discussion on the regency-bill, has on many occasions testified the strongest attachment to his lordship; * and it is well known, that the Duke of York made choice of Lord Rawdon to be his second in the affair of honor with Colonel, now Major-general, Lenox.

B 3

By

* His lordship is a very active, we had almost said enthusiastic, free-mason, and has always been the acting grand-master of that society, ever since the Prince of Wales was elected to the office of grand-master. His lordship drew up the elegant address to his Majesty, which was presented by the grand lodge of England, in 1793; and which may be considered as a complete refutation of the charges brought against the brotherhood by Abbé Barruel, and Professor Robison.

By the death of his uncle, the Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Rawdon acquired an ample fortune, and was permitted by the king to assume the arms and name of Hastings; and on his father's death he succeeded to the Irish title and patrimony of Earl of Moira. His mother possesses the ancient Barony of Hastings, and the other baronies in fee, belonging to the Earls of Huntingdon, which at her death will descend to him.

S.

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART. L.L.D.

THE Sinclairs of Ulbster in Caithness are an opulent branch of the family of the earls, who derive their titles from the name of the county. The late Mr. Sinclair enjoyed an extensive estate in that northern shire; and his ancestors, in a former period, must have undoubtedly possessed somewhat like a petty sovereignty, claiming at least the right of *pot and gallows*, or, in other words, the power either of drowning or hanging their enemies. His rental is said to have amounted to nearly fifteen hundred a-year; and when it is considered, that some of the lands are not at this day worth three halfpence an acre, and that it is a very favourable year indeed when the walnut will kernel, or the apricot reach maturity, it may be easily supposed, that a small tract of territory will not produce that income.

John born in 1754, is the son of the *laird of Ulbster*, by Lady Jane Sutherland; being an only child, he received the first rudiments of his education under the paternal roof, from a private preceptor. While yet a boy, he gave frequent instances of his industry and application, and exhibited a taste for books, and a turn for research, which has invariably marked his character through life,

After

After the usual preliminary studies, the attractions of the high-school at Edinburgh carried the *young laird* thither; he then removed to the universities of Glasgow and Oxford; and passing through the various classes, with the approbation of all the professors, who were loud in praise of his industry, he returned home.

Both in Scotland and Ireland there is but one profession, exclusive of the military, to which the son of a man of fortune will stoop; this is the law. That which, in the opinion of some, favours of the *quiddam mercenarium*, as much as any other employment, is the only one to which they will bend: every thing else, according to them, favours of trade; and it is to be feared, that agriculture, notwithstanding many illustrious examples to the contrary, is still considered somewhat in the same light as it was once by a Roman of equestrian rank.*

It was to the study of the law, then, that Sir John Sinclair first bent his mind. He accordingly repaired once more to the capital of Scotland, and became a member of the society of advocates. Here again his industry displayed itself, but took a new direction; for he was now constantly seen in their noble library, rummaging ancient titles, poring over moth-eaten records, and investigating the contents of musty parchments. In short, he then laid the foundation of a certain species of knowledge, which entitled him at one time to the praise of being more minutely acquainted with the *chartularies* of Scotland, than any of his contemporaries of the same standing. But it was not as an antiquary only that he acquired reputation, for he constantly frequented the *speculative society*, and first distinguished himself by his speeches there.

B 4

After

* "Non fuit consilium socordia atque desidia bonum otium conterere: neque vero, agrum colendo, aut venando, servilibus officiis intentum, ætatem agere," &c.

After revisiting England, where he must undoubtedly have acquired a taste for agriculture, he was returned member for his native country; and he soon distinguished himself from the rest of his countrymen, who, unless called upon *officially*, are generally very abstemious in the article of oratory; and now that *honest George Dempster* has retired, this circumstance alone would attract notice in the present age.

Sir John Sinclair first appeared in the character of an author in 1782, at which time he published "Observations on the Scottish Dialect:" on this occasion he candidly acknowledged, that he had been assisted by the late Sir John Henderson's papers.

But his principal work, and one indeed for which he was admirably fitted, both by nature and habit, was his "History of the Public Revenue of the British Empire;" of which, Parts I. and II. were published in 1789, and Part III. in 1790: The period was peculiarly appropriate for a discussion of this nature, as Neckar had aroused the attention of all Europe, by his work on the finances of France, while the dispute between him and Calonne tended not a little to develop the modern mysteries of finance; mysteries, which, like those of the *BONA DEA* in ancient times, were until then doomed to be kept secret from all but the immediate votaries.

In every point of view, this must be allowed to be a most important work; and had the proper inductions been made, it would have saved us from many subsequent calamities. The progressive income of the public revenue, from 400,000*l.* in the time of William the Conqueror (1070,) until 1788 in the reign of George III. when it amounted to 15,572,971*l.**, affords a very flattering proof of the revenues of the nation; yet when it is considered,

* It is now estimated at about 27,000,000*l.* having experienced a rise of more than eleven millions and a half per annum, in the space of ten years.

on the other hand, that the war expences during the whole reign of William III. amounted to only 30,447,382*l.* and that the sum squandered in the project of subjugating America formed a total of 139,171,876*l.* it was easy to foresee the dangers inseparable from any other than a pacific system.

But Sir John does not content himself with dry details, for he enters into the ocean of financial speculation; and proposes, by economical arrangements, improvements in the existing revenues, new and additional taxes, and lucrative projects, to meliorate the national income, by the amazing sum of 13,796,874*l.* It must however, be allowed, that some of his suggestions, if necessary, are at the same time humiliating; for he proposes, amongst other things, to sell Gibraltar. One of his projects is perhaps immortal, as he recommends lotteries; another (a poll-tax) odious and insufferable; and a third, the reduction of the coinage, pregnant with mischief. An excise on dress to the amount of 100,000*l.* per cent. appears whimsical; but a tax on dogs, here first hinted, and computed at 62,500*l.* has been carried into execution, to the great diminution of the pleasures of men of small fortunes, attached to country sports, and the *decimation* at least of the whole canine race in Great Britain.

The following sentiments are worthy of attention; would to heaven they had been followed up before it was perhaps too late! would to heaven that they were still listened to by the governments of the nations to which they were then addressed!

“ The more the people are loaded, the less they
“ can bear in addition; the struggle, therefore,
“ between the rival nations, and the boast and glo-
“ ry of their statesmen, ought to be, not who pays
“ the most, but from whom the least is exacted.
“ May such be the great source of competition
“ between France and England: may the rulers of
“ both kingdoms contend, for the future, whose
“ administration shall prove the lightest, and least
“ burdensome;

“burdensome : and may the rivalship never cease, until both countries attain such ease and abundance, that, in the memorable words of Henry IV. of France, ‘le plus pauvre pût tous les Dimanches mettre une poule au pot;’ or in the plain language of this country, until the poorest labourer can enjoy a comfortable dinner with his family on Sunday !”

Sir John soon appeared before the public in the character of an author, or rather editor, of a work entitled “The Statistical account of Scotland.” In the year 1789-90, he had circulated among the clergy of that country a variety of queries for the purpose of elucidating the national history, and the moral, agricultural and political state of North Britain. This admirable undertaking reflects great honour on the Caledonian priesthood, and obtained for the projector the appellation of the “patriotic senator.” The work in question has extended to thirteen volumes, of which the two first were published in 1791-2, and the others in 1793-4.

We had not been long engaged in the present contest, to which however, we believe, he had at first assented by his vote, before Sir John perceived the dreadful consequences likely to accrue to our finances from its progress, and even anticipated that stoppage of money payments at the bank, which at one period was considered as likely to give a death-blow to our credit. He accordingly addressed a series of letters to the governor and directors, as early as September, 1795, “on the pecuniary distresses, and the means of preventing them,” which do honor to his foresight. These were published in 1797.

Let us now consider Sir John Sinclair as a senator. We believe, in the first part of his political career, he was attached to Mr. Pitt; and it is but fair here to observe, that the greater part of the nation were at one time, and perhaps still are, dragged by the chain of opinion after the triumphal car of that celebrated statesman. He soon, however, had occa-
sion

tion to change his mind; and we find him opposing one of his favourite plans, known by the name of the commutation-act, which he qualified by the title of "a wanton and unnecessary experiment."

During the critical and important period of the regency, when it was generally believed that new men and a new system would prevail,* Sir John appears to have joined the phalanx headed by Mr. Fox and Lord North; and, if not a rancorous, to have displayed an uniform hostility to the measures of Mr. Pitt: we accordingly find him as member for Lestwithiel,† supporting the previous question, moved by Lord North, on Tuesday, December 16th, 1788, which had it been carried would have obliged Mr. Pitt to retire from the treasury bench.

Three days after this (Friday, December 19th) he expressed his astonishment, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer "should call the system of measures that he had explained to the House, a system consistent with the principles of the constitution, when it was in *direct opposition to law*." He asserted, on the contrary, that his project was equally hostile to the constitution and the laws, and forcibly deprecated the assumption of the power intended to be called forth during the suspended exercise of royal authority. The proper and simple mode of procedure for the two Houses to adopt, in his opinion, was for them to address the only individual,‡ that all

* In the "Appendix to the History of the Public Revenue," printed in 1789, after mentioning his disappointment at not receiving assistance from the records of the different offices, the author proceeds thus: "In the mean while an event of a nature the most unforeseen and distressing has taken place, *from which* a change of government may be looked for, and as his wishes for information may possibly be gratified by some future minister, &c.

† He received this seat not as a favour from the crown, but as an equivalent for his interest in the district boroughs of Tain, Kirkwall, &c.

‡ The prince of Wales.

mens eyes were fixed upon, as the fit person to undertake the administration of government, in like manner as our ancestors addressed the Prince of Orange a century ago; this, he conceived, would have been the direct constitutional line of proceeding; but what has been substituted, bore such evident marks of usurpation, and rendered it so obnoxious to the welfare of the country, that he was determined to bring forward a plan of his own, to obtain a constitutional establishment of a regency, and when the right honourable member's system came on again in that House, he would subject his proposal to their consideration.

When the grand question respecting the slave trade was agitated, in 1792, Sir John asked certain questions of Mr. Pitt, respecting the horrid traffic of our own and foreign nations in their fellow men, but did not take any decided part on that subject. It is difficult, indeed, precisely to define his opinions, but it is with pain we express our belief, that they were averse to the claims of outraged humanity.

During the scarcity of corn that prevailed in 1795-6, we find him more honorably occupied. On Friday, December 11th, he made a motion for a select committee, and recommended a *general inclosing bill*, the "intention" of which, "was to preclude calamity and distress in future; to cut up famine by the roots; to prevent it again coming within the boundaries of this island; to render it unnecessary ever to grant bounties on the importation of foreign grain; all of which could be effected, by resolving to cultivate the waste, uninclosed, and unproductive lands of the kingdom."

In March, 1796, he renewed the same subject; and after observing that there was land enough in the country to feed its inhabitants, he stated, that in 1795-6, it had been rendered necessary to import one million of quarters of grain, at an expence of three millions sterling, great part of which was exported

ported in coin, and had thereby contributed, in a great degree, to the then scarcity of specie.

When the debate took place (February 28, 1796) respecting the situation of the bank, Sir John afforded a pregnant instance of his research, by quoting a precedent that occurred in 1696, when this same great commercial company had struggled under similar difficulties; and it is not a little astonishing, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer appeared to be totally unacquainted with the proceedings of the period alluded to, although they were strictly in point.

When Mr. Pitt introduced his bill for the redemption of the land-tax, it was strenuously opposed by "the patriotic senator," who objected to it on a variety of grounds.

Sir John Sinclair has been twice married; first to a relation of the Earl of Lauderdale, and secondly to a daughter of the late Lord Macdonald; by the latter he has a son, and by the former two daughters.

Previously to his nomination to be president of the Board of Agriculture, he established a society at Edinburgh, for the improvement of British wool; and he has exhibited specimens of Orkney sheep, whose fleeces are far superior in point of fineness, although we believe not in *length*, to those of Spain.

In the course of the present war, he has raised two battalions, called the "Rothsay and Caithness fencible infantry," of both of which he is colonel; his commissions are dated March 7th, and December 19th, 1794. The second is now serving in Ireland.

It may not be amiss here to remark, that his regiment is dressed after the usual manner of the highlanders, with a very becoming and indeed decent alteration in respect to the covering of the *lower extremities*; the men wearing *trews*, or close tartan trowsers, instead of the *kilt* or short petticoat, which permits the knees to remain naked, and

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in some of the military movements, even exposes the posteriors! In a dissertation lately written by him on that subject, he endeavours to prove this to be the ancient Celtic dress, and quotes Gibbon, Henry, &c. besides some traditional authorities on this subject. He has also brought forward the evidence of ancient Scotch ballads, particularly that of "Tak' your Auld Cloak about ye;" supposed to be written in the time of Robert Bruce:

"In days when our King Robert rang,
 "His *trousers* they cost but half a crown,
 "He said they were a groat ou'r dear,
 "And ca'd the taylor thief and loun."

It will appear from what has been mentioned, that Sir John Sinclair is a man of great perseverance and industry. He has attained a very considerable degree of knowledge, in respect to the finances and resources of this country, and has of late years, experienced a marked opposition from Mr. Pitt, who, by means, perhaps, not very liberal, is said to have tumbled him down in the twinkling of an eye from the chair of the Board of Agriculture.

He has been impeached of recommending camps in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, in time of peace; a system perhaps but too familiar with the prejudices of his early life. The friends of the premier also accuse him of having written a letter to a great personage, at the dissolution of the last parliament, soliciting a *seat* in either of two great houses, and observing, that an hereditary one would be most consonant to his dignity as president of the Board of Agriculture. It is to his pretended disappointment on this occasion, that they trace the origin of a kind of *armed neutrality*, and a dereliction of the premier, to whom he was once so greatly attached.

It is impossible to decide with any degree of accuracy respecting charges so vague and secret in their very nature; we can only observe, that he is one of the ablest and most opulent, and we are inclined

inclined also to consider him as one of the most independent, of our modern legislators.

Sir John Sinclair was created a baronet, February 4th, 1786; but whether his claims originated from the title of his paternal ancestor, Sir George Sinclair of Clythe, who sat in the Scottish Parliament, at the beginning of the present century, or in his own merits, the author of this sketch is unable to determine.

Previously to his receiving patent honours, he had become entitled to academical ones, having obtained the degree of Doctor of Laws some years before.

A.

MR. ROSCOE.

THE history of the celebrated author of the Life of Lorenzo de Medicis, evinces the wonderful effects which result from assiduous industry, super-added to the intuitive rapidity of genius. Favoured by no advantages of education, fostered by no patronage, raised by the native energies of his mind alone, Mr. Roscoe has reached a pitch of literary eminence, which is rarely attained even by those who have made the best use of the privileges of academic instruction.

His parents moved in the humbler sphere of life; they were of course precluded by their circumstances from giving their son a very extensive education; and, with a strange perverseness of temper, he obstinately refused to attend at the day-school where his father wished him to be taught writing and arithmetic. In consequence, he had not even the common opportunities of acquiring knowledge usually enjoyed by those of the same station in life as himself. He was thus fated to be the architect of his own fame.

But

But though he threw off the trammels of the school, he was not idle:—he read much, and thought more.

At an early age he was articled as clerk in the office of Mr. Eyes, an attorney, in Liverpool. Soon after this period he was stimulated to undertake the study of the Latin language, by one of his companions boasting that he had read Cicero de Amicitia, and speaking in high terms of the elegance of the style, and the sentiments of that composition. Mr. R. immediately procured the treatise in question; and smoothing his difficulties by perpetual reference to his grammar as well as to his dictionary, he drudged through the task which emulation had incited him to undertake. The success which he experienced in his first effort prompted him to proceed; and he did not stop in his career till he had read the most distinguished of the Latin classics. In this pursuit he was encouraged by the friendly intercourse of Mr. Francis Holden, an eccentric genius and excellent scholar.

Having made considerable progress in the Latin language, Mr. R. still without the assistance of a master, proceeded to the study of French and Italian. The best authors in each of these tongues became familiar to him; and it is supposed, that few natives of the country have so general and recondite a knowledge of Italian literature, as the subject of the present memoir.

During the whole of this period, Mr. R. regularly attended at the office; and his seasons of study were the intervals of business.

His attachment to the muse was of a very early date. While yet a boy he read with avidity the works of the best English poets. Of their beauties he had an exquisite sense; and it may easily be imagined that the earliest of his compositions were of the poetical class. "Mount Pleasant," a descriptive poem, which he wrote in his 16th year, is a record not only of the fertility of his genius, but of the correctness of the taste.

—Soon

Soon after the expiration of his clerkship, Mr. R. was taken into partnership by Mr. Aspinwall, a very respectable attorney of the town of Liverpool; and the entire management of an office, extensive in practice, and high in reputation, devolved upon him alone. In this situation he conducted himself in such a manner as to gain universal respect. For notwithstanding his various pursuits, he had paid strict attention to his profession, and had acquired a liberal and minute knowledge of law. And in clearness of comprehension, and rapidity of dispatch in business, he had few equals.

About this time he commenced an acquaintance with the late* Dr. Enfield, and the present Dr. Aiken, then residents at Warrington, the former being tutor in the belles lettres in the Warrington academy, and the latter established as a surgeon in that town. These gentlemen had the honour of being early sensible of his surprising talents, and they contracted with him a friendship which was sure to be lasting, as it was built on the solid basis of mutual esteem.

Mr. R. seems to have almost intuitively gifted with a correct taste in the arts of painting and statuary. On the 17th December, 1773, he read to the members of a society, formed in Liverpool, for the encouragement of designing, drawing, painting, &c. an ode on the institution of the aforesaid society, which was afterwards published, together with his poem entitled Mount Pleasant. Of this society he was a very active associate, and occasionally gave public lectures on subjects appropriate to the object of the institution.

When the voice of humanity was raised against the slave trade, Mr. R. fearless of the inconvenience to which the circumstances of his local situation might expose him, stood forth a zealous and

* When Dr. E. published the 2d vol. of the Speaker, Mr. R. furnished him with an Elegy to Pity, and an Ode to Education.

enlightened advocate for the abolition of that inhuman traffic. In his boyish days, indeed, he had expressed his feelings on this subject in the following beautiful lines, which are extracted from the above-mentioned poem, *Mount Pleasant*, p. 13 :

There Afric's swarthy sons their toils repeat,
 Beneath the fervors of the noon-tide heat;
 Torn from each joy that crown'd their native soil,
 No sweet reflections mitigate their toil;
 From morn to eve, by rigorous hands oppress'd,
 Dull fly their hours, of every hope unblest;
 Till broke with labour, helpless, and forlorn,
 From their weak grasp the ling'ring morsel torn;
 The reed-built hovel's friendly shade denied;
 The jest of folly, and the scorn of pride;
 Drooping beneath meridian suns they lie,
 Lift the faint head, and bend the imploring eye;
 Till death, in kindness, from the tortured breast
 Calls the free spirit to the realms of rest.
 Shame to mankind! but shame to Britons most,
 Who all the sweets of liberty can boast,
 Yet, deaf to every human claim, deny
 That bliss to others which themselves enjoy:
 Life's bitter draught with harsher bitter fill,
 Blast every joy, and add to every ill;
 The trembling limbs with galling iron bind,
 Nor loose the heavier bondage of the mind.

Thus, by his own reflections, Mr. R. was prepared to enter with ardor into the views of the friends of suffering humanity. He had frequent conversations with Mr. Clarkson, who first drew the attention of the kingdom at large to this national disgrace. A specious pamphlet was published in defence of the trade, intituled, *Scriptural Researches into the Licitness of the Slave Trade*, and written by a Spanish Jesuit of the name of Harris. Mr. R. answered it with great spirit and acuteness, in a counter-pamphlet, intituled, *A Scriptural Refutation of a Pamphlet lately published by the Rev. Raymund Harris*.

But this copious and interesting subject awakened all his sympathies, and the public were gratified by a most affecting poem, intituled, *The Wrongs of Africa*.

Africa. This poem Mr. R. intended to complete in three parts. The two first appeared in 1787 and 1788, but the lovers of genuine poetry have to lament that he has not yet fulfilled his promise of favouring them with the publication of the third.

A mind so active and generous as Mr. R's., could not be uninterested in that stupendous event, the French revolution. He caught the enthusiastic glow which warmed the breasts of the friends of freedom, while they beheld a mighty nation throwing off the fetters of despotism; and fondly hoped that the consequences of their exertion would be lasting peace, good order, and equal laws. He turned the lyre on this bewitching theme, and proclaimed the praises of Freedom in a translation of an ode of Petrarch, which found its way into the *Mercurio Italico*; a song intituled, *Millions be Free*, and the famous poem, *The Vine-covered Hills*, which may be classed among the most finished compositions in the English language.

During the season of tumult and discord, which succeeded the attempt of the combined powers to reinstate, in the plenitude of its authority, the despotism of France (an attempt in which this country, fatally to itself, too cordially united), Mr. R. was busily employed in writing the History of Lorenzo de Medicis. This work was begun about the year 1790. It may be presumed that it has now passed through the ordeal of criticism: more than two years have elapsed since its publication. The literary world have had time to recover from the dazzle of surprise—and the buz of ignorant applause, raised by the leaders of literary fashion, is still. The sentence of sober judgment confirms the verdict which was pronounced according to the dictates of first impressions. The liberal acumen of Parr has assayed the Life of Lorenzo, and has found it sterling gold. Its dignity and grace have shielded its author from the merciless tomahawk of
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the writer * of the *Pursuits of Literature*; and we may fairly presume that its rank is fixed amongst the most splendid ornaments of English literature.

The admiration with which the public have been affected by the perusal of this work will, no doubt, be encreased by a knowledge of the circumstances in which it was composed. At the time when it was projected, Mr. R. lived at the distance of two miles from Liverpool, whither he was obliged daily to repair to attend to the business of his office. The dry and tedious details of law occupied his attention during the whole of the morning and afternoon; his evenings alone he was able to dedicate to study; and it will be easily conceived, that a gentleman surrounded by a numerous family, and whose company was courted by his friends, must have experienced, even at these hours, a variety of interruptions. No public library provided him with materials. The rare books which he had occasion to consult, he was obliged to procure in London at a considerable expence. But in the midst of all these difficulties the work grew under his hands. In order that it might be printed under his own inspection, he established an excellent press in the town of Liverpool, and submitted to the disgusting toil of correcting the proofs. The *History of Lorenzo de Medicis* was at length published early in the year 1796.

Soon after the publication of his history, Mr. R. relinquished the profession of an attorney, and entered himself at Gray's Inn, with a view of acting as a barrister.

He took advantage of the leisure which the relinquishment of business afforded him, to enter upon the study of the Greek language; in which, according to the report of his intimate friends, he has made considerable progress.

The public have, with concordant voice, called upon Mr. R. for the life of Leo X.; and Lord Holland and Lord Bristol have, with great liberality, offered their assistance in procuring from Italy, and

* Mr. Mathias.

other parts of the continent, whatever documents he might think it necessary to consult in the execution of so grand a design. The lovers of polite literature will be glad to hear that Mr. R. has actually begun this expected work; but such is the troubled state of Europe, that he is debarred, at present, from the use of materials which might be collected abroad.

In the course of his conduct, Mr. R. has uniformly maintained a character of simplicity, sincerity, and benevolence. He acts uprightly without effort. Ill-fated genius cannot plead his history as a precedent for irregularity of life; nor will his example sanction the herd of men of abilities, who deem their talents a licence to live in idleness, and prey upon the public. He is, in every sense of the word, an independant man. Long may he enjoy the blessings which are the meed of virtue.

M.N.

THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL.

THE rise of this nobleman must be allowed to have been rapid; and if we are to believe his enemies, it is unexampled in our annals, since the time of the Spencers. This, however, is not strictly true, for it might be easy to point out many others who have been fully as fortunate in the course of the present reign, and attained equal honors with perhaps inferior pretensions.

On his being ennobled, it was observed, with more rancour than truth, that his family disgraced the peerage; whereas the truth is, that on the score of birth, his pretensions are superior to many of those with whom he associates, either in the senate, or at the council board. His ancestors have been settled more than a century at Walcot, near Charlbury in Oxfordshire. His grandfather, Sir Robert Jenkinson, married a wealthy heiress at Bromley
in

in Kent; and his father, who was a Colonel in the army, resided at South Lawn Lodge in Whichwood Forest.

Charles Jenkinson received the first rudiments of his education at the grammar school of Burford, two miles distant from his father's house; and many persons are still living in that neighbourhood, who address him as their old school-fellow. He was afterwards placed on the foundation in the Charter House, and seems to have been so well satisfied with the institution, that he educated his eldest son, the present Lord Hawkesbury, there. From this eminent seminary he was removed to Oxford, where he first imbibed, perhaps, his political sentiments, and was entered a member of the University College. There he took out degrees, that of B.A. and A.M. and seems to have made himself first known by some verses on the much-lamented death of the Prince of Wales, the father to his present Majesty.

In 1753, he removed from Oxford, without obtaining, and perhaps without soliciting, a fellowship; and in 1753, he published his first prose tract, entitled "A Discourse on the Conduct of the Government of Great Britain, with respect to Neutral Nations during the Present War." He afterwards wrote several other pamphlets; and one in particular, on the benefit resulting from a militia, or armed national force, independent of a standing army. This abounds with many and patriotic sentiments, and has been lately quoted against himself in the House of Peers: on that occasion his lordship did not deny that he was the author, but contented himself with apologising for his errors, on account of his extreme youth.

To the former of these productions, his rise in life has been falsely attributed; it was allowed by every one to be an able performance; but like many others of the same kind, it might have lain in the warehouse of his bookseller, and he himself remained for ever in obscurity, had it not been for the intervention of a gentleman of the same county, with whom he luckily became acquainted.

Sir

Sir Edward Turner of Ambroseden in Oxfordshire, being of an ancient family, and possessing a large fortune, ambitioned to represent his native county in parliament. Having attained considerable influence by means of a large estate, and a hospitable and noble mansion, which as well as the family house at Blackheath has been since taken down, and the materials sold by his eldest son Sir Gregory Page Turner, Baronet, he accordingly stood candidate as knight of the shire. He was, however, strenuously but unsuccessfully opposed; for in addition to his own, he possessed the court interest. The struggle, notwithstanding this, was long and violent, and it still forms a memorable epoch in the history of contested elections. But for nothing is it more remarkable, than for its being the fortunate occurrence in Mr. Jenkinson's life, which produced all his present greatness; for the contending parties, having as usual, called in the aid of ballads, lampoons, verses, and satires, this gentleman distinguished himself by a song in favour of Sir Edward and his party, which so captivated either the taste or the gratitude of the baronet, that he introduced him to the Earl of Bute, then flourishing in all the plenitude of power.

It is known but to few, perhaps, that his lordship, who placed Mr. J. at first in an inferior office, was not at all captivated with him, for it was entirely owing to the repeated solicitations of the member for Oxfordshire, that he extended his further protection. After a longer trial, he became the Premier's private secretary, and in some respect a member of his family, participating in his friendship and favour, and living with him in an unrestrained and confidential intercourse.

Such a connexion as this could not fail to prove advantageous; and accordingly, in March, 1761, we find him appointed to be one of the Under-secretaries of State, a situation which presupposes an intimate acquaintance with the situation of foreign affairs, and a pretty accurate knowledge in respect to the *arcana imperii* in general. He

He, however, did not remain long in this station, for after the lapse of about fourteen months, he received the lucrative appointment of Treasurer of the Ordnance; this he relinquished in 1763, for the more confidential office of joint Secretary of the Treasury; a situation for which he was admirably qualified, by his knowledge of the state of parties, and the management of a House of Commons, of which he himself had been some time a member, having obtained a seat for Cockermouth.

To the Rockingham administration, which succeeded in 1765, he was both personally and politically odious, and he accordingly lost all his appointments; but in the course of the same year, he had one conferred on him by the king's mother, the late Princess Dowager of Wales, which no minister could bereave him of; this was the auditorship of her Royal Highness's accounts.

This circumstance, added to his close intimacy with the discarded minister, awakened the jealousy of the patriots; and if we are to credit their suspicions, he became, in the technical language of that day, the "go-between" to the favourite, the princess-mother, and the throne.

When Lord Bute retired into the country in disgust, promising to relinquish public affairs, a great personage is said to have construed this into an *abandonment*, and to have looked out for advice elsewhere; from that moment Mr. Jenkinson was ranked as one of the leaders of the party called the "king's friends," and his Majesty has always since distinguished him by a marked partiality to his merits.

Honors and employments now fell thick upon him. In 1766, he became Lord of the Admiralty, and in 1777, a Lord of the Treasury. Soon after this he obtained the * clerkship of the pells in Ireland, and was nominated a Lord of Trade; in 1786, he was created Lord Hawkesbury, Baron of Hawkesbury in the county of Gloucester, and on May 28th, 1796,

* It is proper here to remark, that this was purchased from Mr. Fox, having constituted part of his patrimony.

was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Liverpool; at which period he was ordered by his Majesty to quarter the arms of that commercial city with those of his own family. These are great honors, but the well chosen motto which he has adopted for his escutcheon, proves that he considers himself as not underserving of them.*

While in the House of Commons, Mr. Jenkinson spoke frequently, but since his recent elevation, speaks but seldom; whatever he says, however, is listened to with the utmost attention, and the throbbings of expectation are never more feelingly experienced by the servants of the crown, than when he utters his wishes either at the council-board, or in parliament.

His lordship formerly experienced much odium, which indeed is always attached to the charge of favouritism, for when the Earl of Bute made his *apothecosis*, his political mouth was supposed to drop on the shoulders of Mr. Jenkinson. He is now, however, a peer, and a privy counsellor, and in one of those situations the temporary, and in the other the constitutional adviser of the crown; he is therefore empowered both by office and by law to deliver his opinion to his sovereign,

It would be unjust to omit that the Earl of Liverpool has always paid great attention to the trade of his country. It was he who drew up the treaty of commercial intercourse with America; and he is also said to have not only pointed out, but to have created the whale fishery in the South Seas.

Respecting the part he took during the American war, no one ever spoke more decisively, or perhaps more intemperately than his present associate the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of the share they both have in the management of this country, and the government of Ireland, and the present contest with France, posterity will be able to judge more coolly, and more fairly than their own contemporaries.

* PALMA NON SINE PULVERE.

C

MR. ABRAHAM

MR. ABRAHAM NEWLAND.

THE signature of this gentleman is pretty familiar throughout every part of Great Britain, and seems to give the same currency to a *bank-note* that the names of the notorious John Doe and Richard Roe confer on a *capias*. Abraham has, however, this in his favour, that he is no fictitious person, made up of shreds of parchment, but a man, a real living man, constituted of flesh, blood, bones, sinews, marrow, and muscles; and while the place of abode of the former gentlemen are so little known, even in Chancery-lane, Lincoln's-inn, Gray's-inn, Serjeant's-inn, or the Temple, that none of their inhabitants, from the judge to the ticket-porter, know where they lodge, and the Sheriffs of Middlesex, if ordered to take one of the rogues into custody, must be under the necessity of returning *non est inventus* on the back of the writ, there is not a boy about the Royal Exchange who cannot point out the *great house*, where honest Abraham is to be seen strutting about, with a pen behind his ear, for several hours every day!

The trade of Europe, during the middle ages, was confined almost exclusively to the provinces that skirt the Mediterranean and the Baltic. The oppressions every where experienced by the Jews from the Christians, taught them, from cruel necessity, the art of transferring their riches from one nation to another; and the mysteries of banking, and of bills of exchange, are supposed to have originated in Italy.

A colony of Lombards, by means of the arms of their duchy*, and the name of their nation, have given sign-posts to our pawn-brokers, and an appellation to the residence of our principal bankers†.

It was not, however, until nearly two centuries after this epoch, notwithstanding the growing increase

* The three balls are the arms of Lombardy.

† Lombard-street.

of our commerce, that a national bank was established, and notwithstanding David Hume, towards the latter period of his life, affected to consider public credit as a *hardier plant* than he had at first imagined, yet it is a long time before mankind becomes so metaphysical as to suppose that a horse, a ship, an estate, or even a province, may be represented by a slip of flimsy paper, that would not be able to contain half the legal jargon sufficient to constitute the conveyance of a house or a homestead!

Indeed, this mode of reasoning is supported by facts, for it was found impossible to create a great national bank, either under the house of Tudor, or the house of Stuart. Such a tyranny as that exerted by Henry VIII. would have driven the proprietors into beggary in the course of a fortnight. Charles II. who cheated the *goldsmiths*, or bankers of his day, by plundering the exchequer of the money lodged there, and whom the *Gothamites* of later times have placed in the centre of the exchange, dressed in a Roman habit, as if he had been the protector of trade! might have proved nearly as fatal to a banking company, by his own distresses, joined to the perpetual cravings of his courtiers and mistresses as the indiscriminate ferocity of Henry. Nel Gwyn alone, would have put a *German subsidy* in requisition!

In fine, we all know, that an establishment of this kind failed in monarchical France, and that it has been several times ineffectually attempted under the republic. It was not until five years subsequent to our own revolution, that the bank of England was established (in 1693), under the auspices of a prince emphatically termed "the DELIVERER;" thus proving to demonstration, that liberty and public credit are inseparable from each other. At Berlin, Vienna, and Madrid, we hear of *court bankers*, but a national bank is still unknown.

This establishment has combated and overcome a multitude of difficulties; for its notes at one time, in consequence of the arts practised by adherents to the house of Stuart, experienced a discount; and it

is but a short time since, that the precious metals contained within its vaults have been kept from circulation, and all money-payments suspended by act of parliament. Even this, however, it has survived; for the known wealth of the establishment, the punctuality of its offices, and the admirable economy of their arrangements, have attracted and most deservedly retained the confidence of the nation.

Of these officers, the most eminent, most noted and perhaps also the most respectable, is the subject of these memoirs. Mr. Newland, born in 1729, or 1730, at the house of his father, a baker, in King-street, Southwark, was appointed a clerk in the bank of England, a little more than half a century ago, being nominated on the 27th February, 1748. Distinguishing himself by that regularity and order so necessary in money concerns, he rose through the various gradations of service, until January 19, 1775, when he attained the respectable and confidential office of chief-cashier to the first commercial company in Europe.

He is now in the 68th or 69th year of his age, and has something commanding and respectable in his person. His deportment is also genteel, his manners are affable, and his activity and attention still exhibit a pattern for the imitation of the junior clerks. His manner of transacting business is eminently methodical; and he is known to have undesignedly given offence to a few of the subscribers to the voluntary contributions, by a rigid and minute attention to the provisos of the act of parliament, and the instructions of the directors. On this occasion, the zeal of some of the newspapers got the better of their discretion, and they made many equally ridiculous and impotent reflections on the character of a person, who generously contributed 200*l.* towards the very measure of which they supposed him to be the enemy.

The wealth of this gentleman has been the subject of much conjecture. He is certainly rich, but no suspicion can attach to this circumstance, when his opportunities,

opportunities, his emoluments, and his economy are considered. He is, however, no churl; for a sum of money being wanted for rebuilding the church of *St. Peter-le-Poor* in Broad-street, it was instantly advanced by him to the parish, at the usual interest, although he could have easily turned it to better account.

At a certain period of life, men both attain and retain habits either of regularity or dissipation. At fifteen minutes past nine o'clock in the morning, he is seen constantly at his desk, and is never absent from his duty until three in the afternoon. He resides in a *suite* of apartments in the bank, annexed to his office, as chief cashier; and being a bachelor, his establishment is not large. During a period of thirty or forty years, he has not been once absent, except during a few weeks illness; and therefore trips to Margate, Brighton, and the other fashionable watering places, have neither impeded his duties, nor added to his expences.

The only relaxation he has allowed himself for many summers past, is a daily ride in the Islington stage-coach, to a cottage at Highbury, where he drinks tea; and after contemplating *the beauties of the country*, returns regularly in the evening to the bank.

As a private character, this gentleman ranks very high; and in his social hours he is a good companion, enjoying the pleasures of the table in moderation, and laughing heartily at *a good story*, of which he is passionately fond.

It is almost impossible to contemplate the immense sums of *paper-money* which literally pass through his hands, both as chief cashier to the bank, and secretary and agent to the commissioners appointed by act of parliament for the reduction of the national debt, without thinking of the lines of Pope:

" Bless'd paper credit! last and best supply!

" That lends Corruption higher wings to fly!

" Gold imp'd by thee can compass hardest things,

" Can pocket states, can fetch or carry kings;

C 3

" A single

" A single leaf shall waft an army o'er,
 " Or ship off senates to some distant shore :
 " A leaf, like Sibyl's, scatter to and fro
 " Our fates and fortunes, as the wind shall blow ;
 " Pregnant with thousands flits the scrap unseen,
 " And silent sells a king or buys a queen."

A.D.

 THE HONORABLE (lately RIGHT HONORABLE)

CHARLES JAMES FOX.

ALL the great men of the present day are either the offspring of, or immediately descended from new families. The ancient nobility repose under the laurels of their ancestors, not deigning to apply to any of the learned professions, and deeming commerce and agriculture unworthy of their pursuits, (a few illustrious characters excepted), they delegate their domestic concerns, to the care of their upper servants, and not unfrequently the business of the nation is entrusted to their proxies. This, perhaps, will be the best apology for the multitude of plebeian scions, recently ingrafted on the stock of ancient aristocracy ; and although it may puzzle Norrey and Clarencieux, to find them either arms or ancestors, certain it is, that the *life blood* of nobility has been infused into the peerage through the conduit of democracy.

It may be also necessary to preface this article with another observation, of which some of the most conspicuous characters of the present political drama, afford more than one pregnant instance ; that the younger sons of our nobility are more successful in their political efforts, than the elder.* This may be easily

* The following remarks are by the late Lord Orford, better known by the name of Horace Walpole.

" William Pitt, Lord Chatham, was a second son, and became

easily accounted for; the heir to a great fortune, and an illustrious title, knows not how soon both may devolve upon him, and when that event takes place, to what further object can his expectations point? He finds that he has been born a legislator, and that a large fortune is entailed upon his person; then there are wealth and honors not only within his grasp, but actually in his power. It is otherwise with the junior branches, for they have in general but little in possession, and every thing to look for; they inherit all the exquisite relish for pleasure that their seniors enjoy to satiety, and are only deficient in the means of gratification. Like the dove of Noah, they scarcely find a resting place for their feet on the earth; and they are exactly in the situation of an invading general who has burnt his ships, for they must on, or perish!

Charles James Fox, is the younger son of Henry, who was himself a younger son of Sir Stephen Fox, celebrated less for his own birth, than the circumstance of being a father at the age of eighty, an event not incredible however, and rendered in the present instant unsuspecting, by the decorous conduct, and acknowledged virtue of the partner of his bed. Henry entered early into public life, and such was his address in parliament, during the reign of George II. that he soon attained not only some of the most arduous and honorable, but also the most lucrative situations in the gift of the crown, for in the year 1754, he was appointed secretary at war; then secretary of state for the Southern department, and after being *ousted* by the great Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, we find him filling the immensely beneficial office of pay-master general of the forces, accumulating great wealth, and incurring the animadversions of the first city of the empire. Such indeed was his consequence, that at a time when

“ came prime minister of England. His rival and antagonist
 “ was Henry Fox, Lord Holland, a second son likewise. Lord
 “ Holland’s second son, Charles Fox, and Lord Chatham’s second son, William Pitt, are now rivals and antagonists.”

patents of peerage were not very common, he was ennobled by his present Majesty, in 1763, by the title of Baron Holland of Foxley.

His son Charles James, was born Jan. 13th, 1749, and if by his father's side, he classed among the *novi homines*, by his mother's, his decent must be allowed to be splendid, for Lady Georgiana Carolina Lennox, was the daughter of the late Duke of Richmond; and as such, in addition to that of the King of Sardinia, she was allied to the two rival, but related families, which had so long contested for the throne of Great Britain—those of Brunswick and Stuart.

But it is not to such vulgar claims as these, that the future historian will have recourse; he will dwell with ardour on the early promise of genius, the precocious talents of the boy, the matured wisdom of the philosopher and the statesman, and while the abilities and virtues that adorn the character of this hero, bring him forward on the canvas, these inefficient and involuntary pretensions will be cast into the shade, and scarcely be distinguished in the background.

The second son proved Lord Holland's favorite child, and at length became the darling of his old age. Perceiving in him the seeds of all the qualities that constitute greatness, he was at infinite pains to give scope to his intellectual vigour, to expand the shoots, and disclose the blossoms of so promising a plant. From his earliest infancy he intended him for parliamentary business, and by conversing always with him as if he had been a man, he actually made him one before the usual time. He is even said to have submitted his dispatches to his perusal, while in office, and to have complied with his corrections.

This country much about the same time, beheld in the persons of two rival orators, two wonderful instances of statesmen, retiring from the field of contention, and devoting the remainder of their lives to the education of their two younger sons, with whom they were accustomed to talk about public affairs, and sometimes to place on a table in order to hear

hear them declaim. Occupied the better part of their days in hostilities against each other, the enmity of the families seems to have become hereditary, for it is kept up by their children, who still maintain a rivalry, even after they had abjured the principles of their respective fires.

In compliance with the future destination of his son, Lord Holland preferred a public to a private education, and accordingly sent Charles to Westminster school. After distinguishing himself here, he removed to Eton, where Dr. Bernard, the late provost, found him not only uncommonly eager after amusements, but eminently successful in classical attainments. His private tutor, while a member of this celebrated institution, was Dr. Newcombe, afterwards Bishop of Waterford, who, while he was frequently vexed at the dissipation of his pupil, had occasion at the same time to be highly gratified with his progress. Here he formed his early friendships with the Earl of Fitzwilliam, Lord Carlisle, his own relation the Duke of Leinster, and some of the first men of the age. It was here also that * one of them anticipated his future reputation in the following lines :

“ How will my Fox, alone by strength of parts,
 “ Shake the loud senate, animate the hearts
 “ Of fearful statesmen! while, around you stand
 “ Both Peers and Commons list’ning your command ;
 “ While TULLY’s sense its weight to you affords,
 “ His nervous sweetness shall adorn your words.
 “ What praise to PITT, to TOWNSMEND, e’er was due,
 “ In future times, my Fox, shall wait on you.”

His father being, in the uncourtly language of those days, “ a rank Tory,” Charles was sent to finish his education at Oxford, where he is reported, in imitation of Penelope, to have regained by his daily toils, the labours lost by his nocturnal aberrations.

* Lord Carlisle.

At

At length he began to pant after a more unrestrained intercourse with society, and consequently to be disgusted with the restraints, and tired with the uniformity of a collegiate life. The most easy, as well as most likely way to rid himself of this, was to evince an ardent desire to see the world; and as his studies were now completed, his father, as usual, indulged the wishes of his darling son. Those who have been accustomed to see Mr. Fox of late years, without being acquainted with the minute particulars of his early life, will scarcely believe, that at this period he was one of the greatest *beaus* in England; that he indulged in all the fashionable elegance of attire, and vied, in point of *red-heels*, and *Paris-cut-velvet*, with the most shewy men of the times. These and similar qualifications were displayed in most of the courts of Europe, in the course of the grand tour; and if he did not return like his maternal ancestor, with all the vices of the continent, he at least brought a wardrobe replete with all its fashions. Nor will a strict regard to historical truth permit the omission of more culpable transgressions, for he is said, amidst the ardour and impetuosity of youth, to have expended, or rather lavished, vast sums of money in† play, and to have contracted immense debts. Let it be recollected, however, that he was at this very time between two and three years short of that period when the law declared him to be no longer a minor.

His enemies have carefully reminded us, that the first political act of his life was a violation of the constitution of his native country; for at the general election in 1768, he took his seat for Midhurst, in Sussex, a borough under the influence

* Charles II.

† Dr. Bisset, in his life of Burke, asserts, that his father, Lord Holland, who accompanied him to Spa, first excited an itch for play in his youthful mind, by allowing him five guineas a night to be spent in games of hazard. But as this rests on the mere assertion of that gentleman, it will be difficult to give credit to the report.

of his family, when he was only nineteen years of age, and consequently ineligible. It is with pain too it is here reluctantly recorded, that the first effort of his eloquence was hostile to liberty^{*}; but, besides his extreme youth, the bent of his education, the prejudices of his family, and the wishes of a fond father, ought all to be taken into consideration; and if a complete vindication does not ensue, an ingenuous mind will not be at a loss for an apology.

During all the proceedings of the House relative to the Middlesex election, Mr. F. stood forward as the champion of the ministry, and exhibited no common address and activity on the occasion. From the first moment of his entering the senate, he, indeed, displayed all the qualities of the orator; and Lord North, then chancellor of the exchequer, deemed his merits so considerable, that in the beginning of 1772 he nominated him to a seat at the admiralty board, and in the latter part of the same year made him, in some measure, a partner with himself in the management of the empire, by appointing him a lord of the treasury.

Amidst this seeming devotion to the court, there were not wanting opportunities when he shook off the trammels of dependence, and allowed his manly mind to take its full scope. Not the least memorable of these was during the debate on the bill brought into the House of Commons by Sir William Meredith, to give relief from subscription to the xxxix articles of the church of England; and in the liberal sentiments delivered on that occasion, he has firmly and uniformly persevered, until the present moment.

But the time had now arrived, when a new direction was to be given to his pursuits. The real

^{*} His first speech was in opposition to Mr. Wilkes, then confined in the King's Bench; and whatever the *motives* of that gentleman might be, dispassionate men will now be ready to avow, that on this occasion, his cause was not only popular but just.

cause of this event, which involved so many important consequences, can only be guessed at. The sons of the Lords Guilford and Holland, were both possessed of talents; the one perhaps aspired to, the other enjoyed, the supreme command; and like two great men of antiquity, the first, perhaps, could not brook a superior, nor the second a rival. The enmity was first developed in the refusal of a petty appointment; it increased on the memorable examination of the Rev. Mr. Horne, now John H. Tooke, at the bar of the House of Commons; and finally became public, in consequence of the following billet, couched with all the energy of Spartan brevity:

“His Majesty has thought proper to order a new
“commission of the treasury to be made out, in
“which I don’t perceive your name.

“NORTH.”

“The Hon. Mr. Fox.”

Considering this not merely as an injury, but an insult, the enmity of Mr. Fox from that moment became public, and he at length raised such a constitutional opposition to the administration of the noble lord who had thus treated him in a manner bordering on contempt, that he, in the end, subverted his power, and dragged his antagonist to the very edge of the scaffold.

In the mean time, Lord Holland died, leaving a large sum of money, and considerable estates in the neighbourhood of Kingsgate, with the house there, built in imitation of Tully’s Formian villa on the coast of Baizæ, to his son Charles. He was thus in possession of a plentiful fortune, and had he retained it, would have stood upon high ground in point of consequence: for these bequests, in addition to the clerkship of the pells in Ireland, soon after sold to Mr. Jenkinson, now Lord Liverpool, must have produced a nett annual income of more than 4000*l. per annum*.

After the dissipation of this large property, a common mind would have, perhaps, bent under the

the calamity; his, on the contrary, seems to have rebounded from the fall; and instead of sinking into despair, to have actually soared into celebrity, and even independence.

A new and noble field now opened to his ambition; and he commenced his career as a patriot, on principles which Locke has upheld, and Sydney would not have blushed to support. The members of that administration, supposed by some to be only the puppets of a northern peer, had rendered themselves detested by the oppression of Mr. Wilkes, the prosecution of the printers, the countenance given to the riots at Brentford, and the military execution in St. George's-fields.

Another event of infinitely greater magnitude now filled up the bitter draught of popular odium; and the previous oppression, and threatened subjugation of America, aroused a general spirit of resistance within the mother country, and pointed the finger of public vengeance at the devoted head of the premier. Fortunately for Mr. Fox's consistency, his conduct respecting the transatlantic contest, was ever strictly uniform; and on this, as on a subsequent occasion, he saw afar off, anticipated the impending calamities, and predicted the accumulation of misfortunes, which afterwards overwhelmed the nation.

Accordingly, in 1774, he opposed the introduction of the Boston Port Bill, and apologised for the conduct of the colonies. In his speech on this occasion, he arraigned the conduct of the minister in bold and energetic language, and explained the principles of the violated constitution, with an eloquence worthy of the cause. The treasury-bench began, for the first time, to calculate the loss it had sustained, the opposition, to estimate the strength it had acquired, while the people rejoiced to behold, in the person of a youthful senator, whom they had been taught to consider as an enemy, a firm, an intrepid, and an eloquent advocate, such as would not have disgraced Rome in her best days.

On

On this occasion, he sat on the same seat as a Saville, a Barré, a Dunning, and a Burke, with the last of whom he had frequently braken a lance, in the war of argument, from the opposite side of the house; and he has since candidly avowed, that from this celebrated man he first imbibed those enlightened maxims of government, professed and acted upon by the pupil, alas! when the master himself seemed to have abandoned them.

On the discussion of Mr. Burke's conciliatory propositions, in 1775, he strenuously supported the liberal schemes of policy pointed out by that gentleman, and spoke and voted during the whole contest in direct opposition to that criminal system, which it had been fondly and fallaciously prognosticated was to produce the unconditional submission of the colonies, and lay them prostrate at the feet of the mother country!

At length all the evils that had been foreseen were realised. America, driven to despair, declared herself free and independent; monarchical France exerted her protecting arm across the Atlantic; the capture of Burgoyne and Cornwallis proclaimed the triumphs of liberty; and a new conflagration lighted up in Europe, by the firebrands that had been scattered in another hemisphere, wasted the strength, and exhausted the resources of England.

At the general election in 1780, the family-borough of Midhurst falling into other hands, and Mr. F. blushing, perhaps, at the idea of violating the very spirit and essence of a constitution, which he now began, for the first time, to understand and venerate, determined to become a candidate for the city of Westminster; and he at length succeeded, after a violent contest, in which he baffled not only all the interest of the Newcastle family, but also all the influence of the crown, both of which were powerfully, but unsuccessfully, exerted against him. Being now the representative, not of a petty venal borough, but of a great city, and that too without any expence to himself, he appeared in parliament

parliament in a more dignified capacity, and acquired a considerable increase of weight and consequence.

Soon after this, the ministry began to totter, and the political *rats* were in motion, in order to desert the sinking fabric. A minority, at first contemptible in point of numbers, but always formidable in respect to integrity and abilities, and which then claimed the present premier amongst the most zealous of its partizans, had increased in power and popularity. The ministers were assailed within by the thunders of eloquence; without, they were overwhelmed by the clamours of an indignant people: to proceed in the war was ruin; and to recede, betrayed them into personal danger. At length the "noble lord in the blue ribbon" was hunted into the toils, and it was hoped by many, that public justice awaited his misdeeds: for in a contest, in which oceans of blood had unjustly flowed, some one must have been criminal; and who more proper for an expiatory sacrifice, than the ostensible author of so many calamities? Alas! had punishment been but inflicted on one single solitary individual, all our subsequent calamities might have been averted, and the world taught to believe, that even in respect to *great offenders*, some connexion still existed between guilt and punishment!

But the Rockingham party contented themselves with the defeat of their opponents; and Mr. Fox, of course, was nominated to a seat in the cabinet, and appointed one of the secretaries of state. The merit of this short-lived administration was conspicuous. Notwithstanding they had succeeded to an empty exchequer, and a general war, they yet determined to free the people from some of their numerous grievances; and had they remained a little longer in power, infinitely more would have been effected. Contractors were excluded by act of parliament from the House of Commons; custom and excise officers were disqualified from voting at elections; the proceedings in regard to Middlesex

were

were rescinded ; while a reform-bill, rather specious, however, in name, than in reality, abolished a number of useless offices. A more generous policy was also adopted in respect to Ireland ; a general peace was already meditated ; an ancient ally was attempted to be soothed by an offer of negotiation* ; and America, which could not be restored, was at least intended to be conciliated.

In the midst of these promising appearances, the nobleman, who was the key-stone that supported the discordant materials of the political arch, died suddenly, and the council board was instantly divided by political schisms.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, who appears at this period to have had the ear of the king, and a majority in the cabinet, was immediately entrusted with the reins of administration, and Mr. Fox determining, (to make use of his own language,) " never to connive at plans in private, which he " could not publicly and consistently avow," retired from office with a numerous and respectable body of his friends.

In the mean time, the party left in possession of all the great offices, concluded a peace with America, France and Holland ; but their administration proved of short duration, for a grand political confederacy had now been formed against them. This, under the name of " the coalition," soon subverted their power, and supplanted them in office. No event, in our time, has produced more obloquy than the alliance between Mr. Fox and Lord North ; and it is not to be concealed, that it was even then pregnant with inauspicious results, and has since been productive of the most sinister consequences, as it enabled an ambitious young man to give the first stab to the constitution, by setting a vote of the House of Commons, hitherto deemed invi-

* Mr. Fox, wishing to detach the Dutch from the coalition with the house of Bourbon, wrote a letter to M. Simolin, the Russian Minister, in which he offered to form a new treaty on the basis of that of 1674.

able, at defiance. The "India Bill," of which Mr. Burke is said to have been the penman; proved the rock, on which the vessel of the ill-paired colleagues foundered; and it is not a little memorable, that their more fortunate rivals revived this very measure, and carried it triumphantly through Parliament!

We now behold Mr. Fox, once more, divested of power, reduced to shelter himself against accidents in the representation of the Orkney Isles; and to contend with an unexampled perseverance for a seat as member for Westminster; which, after a memorable scrutiny, and an immense expenditure, he at length obtained.

He has since been re-elected to the same honorable post, and has steadily combated, as a representative of the people, the influence of the crown; which, in his opinion, alone constitutes, and produces all their grievances. His subsequent conduct has been such as to restore the current of popularity, and raise his name higher than before. His grand maxim, and surely it is immediately connected with the prosperity, and, perhaps, the existence, of a manufacturing and commercial country, is the maintenance of peace. With this object in view, he opposed a contest with Russia, about the fortress of Ochakow, and a conflict with Spain concerning the peltry of Nootka Sound.

During the first stages of that melancholy event which led to the regency bill, Mr. Fox was wandering through the delightful regions of modern Italy, and seemed enchanted once more to tread on classic land. From this charming spot, he was called to witness and to participate on far different scenes, and finally to behold the party he opposed more firmly seated in power than before.

* This is rather incorrect, Mr. Fox being returned for the district of boroughs, called Tain, Dingwall, &c. &c. Even here, however, he was opposed by Sir John Sinclair, but the interest of the present Lord, then Sir Thomas Dundas, finally prevailed.

He has been blamed for his conduct during the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, but he was supported by a majority of the House of Commons on that occasion, and by nearly all his political enemies. This measure was absolutely necessary, in order to clear the honour of the nation, and prove to the oppressed inhabitants of India, that in England they would still find avengers. It is not to be denied, however, that the trial was spun out to a most oppressive length, and that the supposed culprit at last ceased to be odious in the eyes of the people. The forms of the House of Peers, as a court of justice, are indeed unfavourable to the dispatch of business, but the managers ought, perhaps, either to have accelerated these, or to have withdrawn from a struggle, when they perceived that the first step towards punishment consisted in the oppression of even a guilty individual!

No sooner did the French nation evince a sincere desire to shake off the dominion of absolute power, than he hailed the auspicious dawn of rising liberty, and deprecated the interference of this country, in a quarrel hostile to the principles on which she had founded her proud pre-eminence. On this occasion, he experienced the dereliction of many of his associates, and among others, of that man, of whose lips he had first imbibed the principles of freedom. Finding, however, that he and his friends were reduced to a scanty minority, he has since retired, in a great measure, from public business, and left the minister to triumph by means of the majorities in his interest. Nor is this all, for his name has been lately struck out from the list of privy counsellors; an event unexampled in the present reign, and only exercised during the last, in respect to a nobleman * accused of cowardice and disaffection.

As an orator, Mr. Fox is assuredly the first man of his age. He simplifies the most abstruse details, he analyzes the most complex arguments, and he reduces the most subtle positions to the test of first principles. Animated himself, he animates others.

* Lord George Germaine.

Unambitious

Unambitious of melodious words and studied phrases, that dwell only on the ear, the correctness of his reasoning assails the judgment, while the irresistible thunders of his eloquence at once influence and captivate the senses. Struggling continually against the stream of power, he yet appears inferior to no man, and he wants only to stand on the "vantage ground" of success, to be viewed as the greatest man of his time.

As an author, he has produced several specimens of poetical compositions, which with a due culture might have attained excellence. His verses to Mrs. Crewe, beginning with the following lines have often been praised :

" Where the loveliest expression to features is join'd,
 " By nature's most delicate pencil design'd ;
 " Where blushes unbidden, and smiles without art,
 " Speak the softness and feeling that dwell in the heart, &c.

His invocation " to Poverty" must, however, be allowed to be superior, and it contains a national reflection that may offend some; it ought, however, to be recollected, that the English, *at that period*, were much disgusted with the temporising conduct of their northern neighbours :

" O Poverty ! of pale consumptive hue,
 " If thou delight'st to haunt me still in view,
 " If still thy presence must my steps attend,
 " At least continue, as thou art, my friend,
 " When *Scotch example bids me be unjust*,
 " False to my word, and faithless to my trust,
 " Bid me the baneful error quickly see,
 " And shun the world to find repose with thee.

" When vice to wealth would turn my partial eye,
 " Or int'rest, shutting ear to sorrow's cry ;
 " Our courtiers' custom would my reason bind,
 " My foe to flatter, or desert my friend ;
 " Oppose, kind Poverty, thy temper'd shield,
 " And bear me off unvanquish'd from the field.

" If giddy Fortune e'er return again,
 " With all her idle, restless, wanton train,

" Her

" Her magic glass should false Ambition hold,
 " Or Avarice bid me put my trust in gold ;
 " To my relief, then, virtuous goddess, haste,
 " And with thee bring thy daughters ever chaste,
 " Health ! Liberty ! and Wisdom ! sisters bright,
 " Whose charms can make the worst condition light,
 " Beneath the hardest fate the mind can cheer,
 " Can heal affliction and disarm despair ;
 " In chains, in torments, pleasure can bequeath,
 " And dress in smiles the tyrant hour of death !"

His letter * " To the worthy and independent Electors of the City and Liberty of Westminster," is his only avowed prose publication, and this has experienced a nearly unexampled sale, having run through twelve or thirteen large editions. On this occasion, he makes a manly appeal to his constituents ; and in a clear and perspicuous style deprecates the idea of foreign alliances, and insists on the necessity of acknowledging the French Republic as an independant state. While alluding to the ridiculous project of subjugating that power, by external force, he expresses himself thus :

" The conquest of France !!! O ! calumniated crusaders, how rational and moderate were your projects ! O ! much-injured Lewis XIV, upon what slight grounds have you been accused of restless and inordinate ambition ! O ! tame and feeble Cervantes, with what a timid pencil and faint colours have you painted the portrait of a disordered imagination !"

Of the *private* life of this great orator, the public may be anxious to have a few authentic particulars. Mr. Fox no longer resides any part of the year in town, having disposed of his house in South-street ; when he visits London, which is but seldom, he stays sometimes at the house of his old friend General Fitzpatrick, and sometimes at a hotel in the neighbourhood of New Bond-street. Except during the shooting season, when he visits Mr. Coke, &c. in Norfolk, he lives chiefly at St. Ann's-hill, near

* Published in 1793.

Chertsey. There he superintends the cultivation of his grounds, enjoys the pleasures of horticulture, and amuses himself in forming his shrubberies. To "the rose," the theme of the Persian poets, he seems particularly attached; for he has a parterre near his house, in which there are no less than thirty different species. He also possesses a great taste for botany; and has been at infinite pains to render himself master of the Linnæan system.

In general he rises about seven o'clock, mounts his horse instantly, rides to the river, and plunges into the Thames. He then returns to breakfast, which is over before ten. The forenoon is, for the most part, dedicated to his books; and is accordingly spent in his study. Before dinner, he takes a walk or ride, around the neighbouring village, sits down to table a little after three o'clock, and lives well and like a gentleman, without any appearance, however, of luxury or ostentation. After indulging in a few glasses of port or sherry, he retires with his guests about six, to the tea-room, which presents a most delightful prospect in the summer season; and after a couple of dishes of coffee, a glass of *liqueur de Martinique* is handed round to the company.

The evenings are generally dedicated to domestic entertainments. Sometimes he reads, and then generally aloud; at other times he plays at some manly game on the lawn, or listens to the music of a favourite lady while fingering the *piano-forte*, or the pedal harp. The evening is not unfrequently spent at the HOLLAND, a charming octagon building, dedicated to his nephew, Henry, Lord Holland, and inscribed to him. From this building is to be seen a most luxuriant view of the surrounding country; but the eye is unwilling to roam abroad, as it is ornamented with beautiful paintings by the hand of Mrs. Armistead.

While the hirelings of ministry are representing him as plotting against the state, he is, most probably, perusing Homer in the original language; and the immortal bard, or the "conspirator," is, perhaps

haps, dandling a child in his arms, or, peradventure, if it be in the summer season, playing at trap-ball on the grass !

In person, Mr. Fox is somewhat above the middle size, and, of late years, is rather inclined to be fat. His features, which are strongly marked, exhibit an appearance of shrewdness and ability; and his eye, in the midst of debate, or the animation of converse, flashes with fire.

No portrait has been oftener painted, and he must be a very inaccurate artist, indeed, who cannot hit off the saturnine complexion, the piercing look, and the arch and bushy eye-brow of the great commoner. The chissel, as well as the pencil, has been employed in giving durability to his resemblance, for a great number of busts have been executed, of late years, in marble, by * Nollekens; and one in *terra cotta* has still more recently been finished by Merchant, as a model for a gem.

The following dedication to Mr. Fox, is by one of the greatest scholars of the age :

CAROLO JACOBO FOX

Quòd veram illam & absolutam eloquentiam
non modò coluerit, sed cultam, qua potuit,
ad Salutem Patriæ Dignitatemque tuendam contulerit;
Quòd in suscipiendis sive amicitijs, sive inimicijs,
has semper voluerit Mortales
habere, illas Sempiternas ;
Quòd Mente solida invictaque permanferit in proposito,
atque improborum spreverit minas ;
Quòd in Causa, quæ maxime popularis esse debuisset,
Non populariter ille quidem,
ut alii, fictè et fallaciter populares,
sed strenue ac fortiter versatus sit ;
Quòd denique, in scèdissimo illo

* No less than thirty-two have been finished by this sculptor, at sixty guineas each, for the Empress of Russia, the Dukes of Devonshire and Portland, Lord Albermarle, &c. &c. &c.

Optimi prudentissimique Senatus naufragio,

Id demum, imò id solum,

quod turpe esset,

Miserum existimârit, atque adeò cum bonis

Libere ~~voluntatis~~ statuerit,

potius quam periculose & simulate & cupide

inter malos,

Librum huncce ea, qua parest, Observantia,

D. D. D.

A. E. A. O.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE WILLIAM PITT,

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, &c. &c.

IT is, at all times, a difficult, delicate, and sometimes a dangerous task, to attempt the delineation of the life and character of a minister of state. The passions of the generality of men are too much agitated to attend to cool discussion while they contemplate the immediate political situation of their country, more especially in a period like the present, so replete with important and singular events.

The subject of this article is, in many points of view, the most conspicuous prime minister which modern Europe has ever beheld, whether he be considered in respect to his very splendid talents, his wonderful success in life, or the singular events which have occurred during his administration. His history will include the annals of the most remarkable epoch in modern times; and he will be justly deemed, by future ages, the lever which gave motion to the proceedings of all the cabinets of Europe. A large share of the good or evil which may result, will be solely ascribed to his councils. In short, he may be considered as uniting the striking qualities of the
Cecils

Cecils, the Walsinghams, the Richlieus, the Mazares, and the Walpoles; to none of these is he inferior in abilities, in eloquence, or in the various arts and consummate policy of the courtier and the statesman.

This country never had a minister of whom such different opinions have been entertained, as of the present, and indeed no former one was ever placed in such critical circumstances. The history of this illustrious statesman, comprising, as it necessarily must, a review of his political life, will be resorted to, at some future period, as one of the most interesting and instructive performances, that can occupy the attention of mankind.

William Pitt, the illustrious Earl of Chatham, had two sons, one of whom, the present able minister, is the youngest. He was born May 8th, 1759, at a time when his father's glory was at its zenith; and when, in consequence of the wisdom and integrity of his councils, and the vigour and promptitude of his measures, British valour reigned triumphant in every part of the globe.

On the accession of his present Majesty, that great statesman, in consequence of new arrangements, chiefly occasioned by the rising influence of the Earl of Bute, retired from the station which he had so honorably filled; and consigning his elder son to the instructions of able tutors, he devoted his own time to the education of WILLIAM, on a strong and well-founded persuasion (as he was in the habit of saying) that "he would one day encrease the glory of the name of PITT."

His classical knowledge Mr. Pitt acquired under the care of a private tutor at Burton-Pynsent, the seat of his father; and the Earl took great pains in teaching him, while still a youth, to argue with logical precision, and speak with elegance and force. He judiciously accustomed him to the practice of making accurate enquiries respecting every subject that caught his attention, and taught him not to remain satisfied with a superficial observation of appearances.

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This lesson brought him into an early practice of cool and patient investigation, rarely, if ever acquired, by those who prefer the trappings of eloquence, and the showy ornaments of language, to plain sober diction, and pertinent matter of fact.

Under such an able paternal tutor, an acute mind could not fail to imbibe a store of sound practical knowledge. The earl, with his usual perspicuity, fancied he saw in his son a future statesman, and, in all probability, a future minister of his country also. It was a laudable ambition in a father, and to gratify it he spared no exertions; directing his whole attention to the great object of rendering his son accomplished in all things requisite to form a public character, and to preserve the lustre already attached to the name of WILLIAM PITT.

He, himself, frequently entered into forced disputations with him, and encouraged him to argue with others, upon subjects far above what could be expected from his years. In the management of these arguments, his father would never cease to press him with difficulties; nor would he permit him to stop, till the subject of contention was compleatly exhausted. By being inured to this method, the son acquired that quality which is of the first consequence in public life—a sufficient degree of firmness, and presence of mind, as well as a ready delivery, in which he was wonderfully aided by nature.

That he might have all the benefits of education which this country could give him, and, at the same time, by a rapid progress through the necessary studies, qualify himself early for the senate, he was taken at between 14 and 15 years of age from his father's roof, and from the care of a very enlightened and worthy clergyman, Mr. (now Dr.) Wilson, and sent to Pembroke college, Cambridge, where he was admitted under the tuition of Messrs. Turner and Prettyman, both very able and well qualified tutors, and willing to second, to the utmost of their power, the intentions of his father. Mr. Prettyman was also his private tutor, and a better choice could not have been

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made

made, as far as classical and mathematical knowledge were concerned. For eloquence he could not look up to either of his tutors; but his father's example and precepts required no farther assistance. In Cambridge he was a model to the young nobility and fellow-commoners; and it was not doubted that if the privileges of his rank had not exempted him from the usual exercises for the bachelors degree, he would have been found among the first competitors for academical honors. On his admission, according to custom, to his master's degree, the public orator found it needless to search into his genealogy, or even to dwell much upon the virtues of his father, the eyes of the university were fixed on the youth; the enraptured audience assented to every encomium, and each breast was filled with the liveliest presentiments of future greatness. To the honor of Mr. Pitt it must be spoken, that he has been duly sensible of the care taken of his rising years. His instructors have received repeated marks of his acknowledgment. Dr. Wilson, his first instructor, is now canon of Windsor; and one of his sons has a lucrative sinecure in Jamaica. The worthy Dr. Turner is Dean of Norwich; Dr. Prettyman has received the Bishoprick of Lincoln, and the Deanry of St. Paul's, and will, doubtless, not be overlooked in future promotions.

He was afterwards entered a student at Lincoln's Inn, and made so rapid a progress in his legal studies, as to be soon called to the bar, with every prospect of great success.

We are informed, that he once or twice went upon the Western circuit, and appeared as junior counsel in several causes. He was, however, destined to fill a more important station in the government of his country, than is usually to be obtained through the channel of the law.

At the general election, 1780, we find him nominated by some of the most respectable persons in Cambridge as a candidate to represent that university; but notwithstanding his high character in the university,

try, he found very few to second his pretensions. In the following year, however, he was returned for the borough of Appleby, by the interest of Sir James Lowther. On taking his seat in the House of Commons, he enlisted himself on the side of the party which had constantly opposed the minister, Lord North, and the American war, and which regarded him with a degree of veneration; recognising in his person the genius of his illustrious father revived and acting, as it were, in him.

One of his first acts, as a member of the House of Commons, was extremely well calculated to increase his popularity; this was his motion for a committee of the house, to consult upon the most effectual means to accomplish a more equal representation of the people in parliament. His propositions were, indeed, rejected; but he continued to repeat and renew them from time to time; and thus kept up the public attention to this great object, and made it more generally canvassed than it ever had been before.

On the death of the great Marquis of Rockingham, the old Whig party fell into a state of disunion, nearly bordering upon dissolution. A new arrangement took place soon after, and Lord Shelburne became the able first Lord of the Treasury, carrying along with him Mr. Pitt, who astonished the country, and, indeed, all Europe, by the phenomenon of a Chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of *twenty-three*!

His popularity at this period effectually screened him from every charge which his youth and inexperience might justly have warranted, and which were strongly urged against him by the adverse faction. The situation of the country was extremely critical. The American war had become generally odious; and all hearts panted for a cessation of hostilities. This desirable object was, therefore, the first consideration with the new ministry.

The combined powers had recently experienced great humiliations, and consequently the opportunity was not to be lost. A general peace accordingly took place; but the terms of it were reprobated by a con-

siderable part of the nation. On this occasion, Mr. Pitt delivered in his place a most masterly defence of himself and his colleagues, which produced a corresponding, though not successful effect. The administration, of which he was the most distinguished member, was therefore short-lived. On its dissolution, the young statesman withdrew into retirement, and afterwards went abroad for some time, visiting Italy, and several of the German courts.

On the coalition's taking place, Mr. Mansfield's seat for the university became vacant, by accepting the office of solicitor-general, and Mr. Pitt determined to oppose him: with this view he went down to Cambridge; but was treated with contempt, by the heads and senior members. One threw the door almost in his face, and wondered at the impudence of the young man, thus to come down and disturb the peace of the university! From such a scene he retired in a few days, in disgust; though the assurances of support from several independent masters of arts, kept alive the few hopes remaining in his breast, of future success. A few months, however, changed the scene; the coalition ministry was thrown out, he came down in triumph to the university, was received with open arms, carried his election with a considerable majority, and was able, also, by his influence, to make Lord Euston his colleague. For a time the tergiversation of the senate was a theme of conversation; the most notorious of the gown who changed their sides, were marked by the contempt of the unsuccessful, but laughed at their own disgrace, under the rewards of the successful candidates; mitres and stalls, and livings, became the portion of the Cambridge men. But few of the independent masters who would have supported him when out of power, and did support him on his accession to the ministry, were to be found among his supporters at the next election; they considered him to have given up those principles of liberty, and that zeal for the reform of parliament, which had, with his great talents, entitled him to their notice.

An occasion, suddenly offered, in 1784, for bringing Mr. Pitt forward once more on the great theatre of politics, as a candidate for fame and power. The British dominions in India had long been in an alarming situation, and it was generally admitted that an immediate remedy was indispensably necessary to preserve them. With this view, Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State, formed, digested, and brought forward, his famous India bill, which he carried through its several stages with a high hand.

The coalition ministry, as composed of such an heterogeneous mixture, notwithstanding their majority in the House of Commons, were generally obnoxious to the nation, and this bill was particularly offensive to the great body whom it immediately affected. Lord North and his new allies were accordingly dismissed, and Mr. Pitt became Premier, assisted by the advice of Lord Thurlow, as keeper of the great seal ---arrangements which, at that time, were, however, only considered as temporary !

He then astonished the commercial and political World, by his own India bill ! He had, however, the mortification to find the majority of the House of Commons against him ; and he was placed in the peculiar situation of a minister acting with a small minority, and that too in opposition to the strongest concurrence of talents ever combined against any administration. He, however, remained firm in his seat amidst a general confusion ; and though the house had petitioned his majesty to dismiss his ministers, our young premier ventured to inform the representatives of the nation that their petition could not be complied with !

This struggle between the commons and the crown was of the greatest importance ; but the people at large were of opinion that the former encroached upon the regal prerogatives ; and on the question being in a manner thrown into their hands by a dissolution of parliament, a new one was returned, which changed the majority, and preserved the minister in a post which he has maintained ever since !

Various publick measures have, of course, during a period of fourteen years, been brought forward by this active minister, to notice which, would far exceed the bounds of a memoir so limited in its object as the present. They are incorporated into the history of his country, and familiarly recollected by his contemporaries.

The commercial treaty with France was a bold scheme, and evinced deep political knowledge.

But the most critical circumstance in the annals of Mr. Pitt's administration, and that on which his biographer should dwell the most, is the period when the regal powers were, in a manner, unhappily suspended, and all the wisdom of the legislature was required to form a regency. It was a crisis not only novel, but of extreme magnitude, as likely to become the precedent for future times; no such incident having till then occurred in the annals of our history.

Some statesmen would have worshipped the rising sun. Mr. Pitt and his colleagues, however, pursued a different course, and thereby added greatly to their popularity, and effectually secured themselves in power.

If, on some occasions, he has courted the favour of the people, he certainly has not always sacrificed at their shrine. He appears, indeed, to have a proper conception of the value in which popular esteem is to be held, but to be sensible that it ought not to influence the conduct of a legislator, when it is evidently repugnant to the true interests of the country.

When the revolution took place in France, the situation of the prime minister of this kingdom became once more extremely critical. Perhaps it was fortunate for the country, that the administration at that time enjoyed the good opinion of both king and people; as violent contentions of party-spirit, at such a juncture, might have led to consequences very injurious to the happy constitutional government of Great Britain.

The situation of Europe has assumed a new face since the monarchy of France was shaken from its ancient

cient basis. A war has ensued totally different from all former wars. In judging, therefore, of the merits of those who are concerned in managing the affairs of the nation, it is impossible to have recourse either to precedents, or to old political principles. A new mode of action, a new scheme of politics was to be devised, and adapted to the existing circumstances.

If any merit be due to boldness of invention, to vigour of execution, to wide extension of plans, and to firmness and perseverance of conduct, certainly the present administration has an undoubted claim to public gratitude.

An attention to commerce has greatly distinguished Mr. Pitt's administration, particularly during the present contest. Perhaps there is no man in the kingdom better acquainted with the principles of trade than he is. The oldest and most experienced merchants have been astonished at his readiness in conversing with them upon subjects which they thought themselves exclusively masters of. Many who have waited upon him in full confidence that they should communicate some new and important information upon matters of trade, have, to their great surprise, found him minutely and intimately acquainted with all those points to which they conceived he was a stranger. By the close attention which he has uniformly paid to the mercantile interests, he has certainly secured to himself an exclusive basis of support, which has enabled him not only to resist a most vigorous opposition, but to carry into effect financial measures, that, till his time, were deemed impracticable.

Some men have charged him with political apostacy, on the ground of his having abandoned, if not opposed, the project of a parliamentary reform. If he really considers such a reform as no longer necessary, it will be difficult to exonerate him from this heavy accusation. But there certainly is a great difference between absolute apostacy, and an occasional cessation from a particular system of opinions or line

of conduct. It does not follow that Mr. Pitt is an enemy to necessary reform, because he considers the existing circumstances of the country as too critical to admit the trial of the experiment.

As a public speaker, Mr. Pitt is not to be characterised by overstrained parallels drawn from the orators of antiquity. He possesses more of the elegance and grace of Cicero, than of the fire of Demosthenes. He is, however, more of the acute logician, than of the persuasive rhetorician. His voice, though clear and powerful, possesses not the modulations that charm the ear, and steal upon the heart; moreover, he seems incapable of producing any grand effect upon the passions of his auditors, and he is at times extremely careless in his choice of expressions. His language is generally good, but he sometimes descends into vulgarity and incorrectness. All his deficiencies, however, are more than counterbalanced by a conclusive and forcible method of reasoning, by a facility of stating his arguments, which makes them not only conceivable to the meanest understanding, but gives them frequently a precision and vigour which may be pronounced irresistible.

The Premier also possesses an advantage of inestimable value, in a minister of state, namely, a great command over his temper, added to much coolness, during the ardour of debate.

This enables him to reply clearly and particularly to the arguments of his opponents, and to defend his own cause by often turning their own weapons upon themselves. Though he is confident, and frequently, it must be confessed, even arrogant in his speeches, which sometimes provokes the opposition orators to use harsh language, yet he seldom loses his own temper, or retorts in anger.

His action is not strictly graceful, which is in some measure owing to the disadvantage of an exterior, which however dignified, is yet not amiably winning, for he is very tall, and deficient in *en bon point*. His countenance is also severe and forbidding, expressive indeed (in the language of physiognomists) of a capacious

pacious mind, and inflexible resolution; but also of a too lofty and perhaps unbending spirit.

Mr. Pitt forms in all points a direct contrast to his great political opponent; and it is certainly a curious circumstance, that two such extraordinary men should be as opposite in their private characters as in their public career. In debate, Mr Fox is vehement, Mr. Pitt cool. The one is frank and open, the other close and reserved. The urbanity of the ex-minister gains him friends among all parties; the *bauteur* and *sing froid* of the Premier does not conciliate even his associates. Mr. Pitt is the same guarded and unbending politician in his social hours that he is in the House of Commons.

In private life his sole pleasures are of an official and convivial nature.

Ambition is the ruling and master-passion of his soul, before which every other sinks into insignificance; at the shrine of this goddess, and at that of Bacchus, he is supposed alone to pay his devotions. That his health and talents may not suffer by the latter, and that his country may prosper under the influence of the former, is the earnest wish of the writer of this article.

J. W.

ERASMUS DARWIN, M. D. F. R. S.

IS the son of a gentleman of landed property, near Newark-upon-Trent. From a country school he was transferred to the university, and entered at St. John's, Cambridge, where, being intended for the practice of medicine, he took the degree of M. B. in 1755; and in his thesis defended the opinion that the motion of the heart and arteries are produced by the immediate stimulus of the blood.

On the death of the present king's father, when all the men of talents in the nation bewailed the loss of a

prince whom they had fondly considered as future Mæcenas, he contributed to the Cambridge collection of odes and elegies ; but his verses on that occasion do not seem to have argued any great chance for celebrity, as they were undistinguished from the exertions of far inferior men, and afforded no great promise of future excellence.

After an education admirably adapted to his intended profession, and a previous degree of M.D. Dr. Darwin determined to practise, and finding the business of the capital entirely monopolized by a few men of celebrity, brought into notice by the zeal of friends, family connexion, and the recommendation and interest of the great, he determined to settle in the country. Luckily for the city of Litchfield, that place was pitched upon for the scene of his labours, and he resided there for a great number of years. If he still retained a taste for poetry, it was either carefully suppressed, or the favours of the muse concealed; he, however, distinguished himself as a philosopher and physician, for as far back as 1758, he published in vol. 50 of the Philosophical Transactions, "An Attempt to confute the opinion of Henry Earle, concerning the Ascent of Vapour;" and, "an Account of the Cure of a periodical Hæmoptoe, by keeping the Patient awake." This was followed by "Experiments on Animal Fluids in the exhausted receiver."

In the mean time, he had bred his son Charles, a promising young man, to his own profession, and sent him to Edinburgh, at that time, as now, the great European school of physic. There he was unfortunately carried off by a fever, at the very time he was enquiring into the nature and cure of diseases, &c. before he had attained the 20th year of his age! To the sorrowing father was left the mournful task of being the editor of his posthumous work; and he accordingly published, in 1780, "Experiments establishing a Criterion between Mucilaginous and Purulent Matter: and an Account of the Retrograde Motions of the Absorbent Vessels of Animal Bodies in some Diseases."

In 1782, the Botanical Society of Litchfield published Linnæus' "System of Vegetables," which is thought to have been chiefly the production of Dr. Darwin, one of its two principal members.

Early in 1789, Dr. Darwin, enlisted again by science in the train of the muses, burst forth like a comet in the hemisphere of poetry, by the publication of the "Botanical Garden;" Part II* of which, containing "the Loves of the Plants," then made its first appearance. The idea of the sexual system had been long before elucidated by the great Swedish naturalist; and it indeed seems to have been coeval with, and most probably, long anterior to, Claudian:

"Vivunt in Venerem frondes; nēmus omne per altum,
 "Felix arbor amat; nutant ad mutua Palmæ
 "Fœdera, populeo suspirat Populus ictu,
 "Et Platani Platanis, Alnoque assibelat Alnus."

The poem consists of four cantos; the three first of which are followed by a dialogue, and the preface contains a summary of the Linnæan arrangement. The intention of this part of the work is to render an attachment to Botanical studies at once more common and more delightful.

"BOTANIC MUSE! who, in his later age,
 "Led by your airy hand the Swedish sage,
 "Bade his keen eye your secret haunts explore,
 "On dewy dell, high wood, and winding shore;
 "Say on each leaf how tiny graces dwell;
 "How laugh the pleasures in a blossom's bell;
 "How insect-loves arise on cobweb wings,
 "Aim their light shafts, and point their little stings."

The scientific turn of the notes, and the agreeable medium of the poetry †, excited an uncommon degree of

* Four editions of this volume, and three of the second, have been already published.

† Some of the lines are peculiarly expressive, such as
 "On her fair bosom sits the Demon ape
 "Erect, and balances his bloated shape;

of curiosity for the publication of Part I. containing "the Economy of Vegetation," which, on account of some experiments, was delayed until 1791. On this occasion, he recurs to Lucretius:

"It Ver, et Venus; et Veneris prænuncius ante
 "Pennatus graditur Zephyrus Vestigia propter,
 "Flora quibus mater, præspersgens ante Viai
 "Cuncta coloribus egregiis et odoribus opplet."

At the beginning of Canto I. the genius of the place, the scenery of which borrowed from a garden, about a mile from Litchfield, where a cold bath was erected by Sir John Floyer, solicits the appearance of the goddess who presides over botany, who, on her descent, is received by Spring and the Elements. Then follows the explosion of chaos, the revolution of the stars, the appearance of lightning, the rainbow, luminous flowers, the glow-worm, fire-fly, electric-eel, medusa, steam-engine, &c.

The following lines deserve great praise; and not the least merit is, that posterior discoveries seem to be fast realizing the predictions of the poet:

"Soon shall thy arm, UNCONQUER'D STEAM! afar
 "Drag the slow barge, or drive the rapid car;
 "Or on wide-waving wings, expanded, bear
 "Thy flying chariot through the fields of air.
 "—— Fair crews triumphant leaning from above,
 "Shall wave their flutt'ring kerchiefs as they move;
 "Or warrior-bands alarm the gaping croud,
 "And armies shrink beneath the shadowy cloud.
 "So mighty Hercules o'er many a clime
 "Wav'd his huge mace in Virtue's cause sublime
 "Unmeasur'd strength with early art combin'd,
 "Aw'd, serv'd, protected, and amaz'd mankind.——
 "First," &c.

"Rolls in their marble orbs his gorgon-eyes,
 "And drinks with leathern ears her tender cries."
 The "vampire-wings" of the Ague, "the young wonder," with which the cherubs, while riding on their little reeds, "—— touch the sliding snail,
 "Admire his eye-tip'd horns, and painted mail," &c." are expressions peculiarly felicitous.

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The second canto commences with an address to the Gnomes. We then find the earth thrown from a volcano of the sun; its atmosphere, ocean, and journey through the zodiac are described. We then hear of primeval islands, paradise, or the golden age; the first great earthquakes, continents raised from the sea, &c.

The third, and last canto, commences with an address to the nymphs; next follows the theory of rain, and of tides; an account of marine animals, rivers, boiling fountains in Iceland, and warm medicinal springs, such as Buxton, &c. &c.

It is easy to perceive, in this very interesting performance, that Dr. Darwin has had recourse to the Rosicrucian machinery, in his "Botanic Garden," for the same reason that Pope adopted it, in his celebrated poem of the "Rape of the Lock." In the formation of the planets, he employs the doctrines of Buffon; in his natural history, he bends at the shrine of the Swede, while he follows the new doctrines respecting air, from the Priestleian and Lavoisierian systems.

A deep attention to botany, and a thorough conviction of the advantages arising from system, induced Dr. Darwin to turn his mind towards the improvement of his own profession, and to become, as it were, the Linnæus of Medicine. Impressed with this novel idea, in the beginning of 1794 he published the first volume of his "Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life," in which, leaving his former work in possession of the vegetable world, he proposes "to reduce the facts belonging to animal life into classes, orders, genera, and species; and by comparing them with each other, to unravel the theory of diseases."

Much preliminary matter is given in separate sections, respecting the immediate organs of sense; and an able theory of ideas follows. We next meet with the laws of animal *causation*, and an exemplification of the transitions of irritative into sensative, and of sensative into voluntary motions; on this occasion,
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we find a dissertation on *unperceived ideas*, and learn, "that all our perceptions are ideas excited by irritation, and succeeded by sensation." Respecting the doctrines of *stimulus* and *exertion*, the author is a great advocate for the system of the late unfortunate Dr. Brown, which he ably and amply elucidates and explains.

Proceeding in an ascending ratio, he considers sleep and reverie, giddiness and drunkenness; with an account of the diseases arising from the last of these, &c. &c.

In 1796, vol. II. made its appearance; and as the former may be considered as strictly theoretical, this contains a practical application of the principles, and is divided into two grand sections; containing, first, the nature and cure of particular diseases; and, secondly, the operation of medicines.

Of this work, it has been said by a celebrated professor of the medical art, that the "*Zoonomia* bids fair to do for physic, what the *Principia* of Sir Isaac Newton has done for natural philosophy:" after this, it would be folly to add our mite of praise.

Dr. Darwin now resides at Derby, where he enjoys an extensive practice, and universal esteem. While his ample and capacious mind grasps the grandest operations of nature, he can yet condescend to comparatively infinite subjects, provided they be connected with human happiness. A proof of this exists in the attention lately paid by him to a subject in which the dearest interests of society are involved—the education of females—or the best means of making affectionate daughters, good wives, and tender mothers!

SIR GEORGE LEON. STAUNTON, BART.

IS the son of a gentleman, of small fortune, in the kingdom of Ireland, and was sent by his parents, early in life, to study medicine at Montpelier, where the

he took the degree of M. D. After he had finished his studies, he repaired to London, where he employed himself in translating some medical essays; written by Dr. Storck of Vienna; and, with wonderful facility in the knowledge of different languages, he at the same time drew up in French, for the *Journal Etranger*, a comparison between the literature of England and France.

About the year 1762, Dr. Staunton embarked for the West Indies, as we find from a farewell letter written to him by the late Dr. Johnson, given by Mr. Boswell, in his life of that great man. This letter is replete with excellent advice, and does equal credit to the writer and the person to whom it is addressed.

Dr. S. resided for some years in the West-Indies, where he acquired a genteel addition to his fortune by the practice of physick; purchased an estate in Grenada, which he cultivated; and had the good fortune to obtain the friendship of the present Lord Macartney, governor of that island, to whom he acted as secretary, and continued in that capacity until the capture of it by the French, when they both embarked for Europe. Having studied the law, Sir George, while at Grenada, served the office of Attorney-General of the island.

Soon after Lord Macartney's arrival in England, he was appointed governor of Madras, and took Mr. S. with him (for he seems now to have lost the appellation of *Doctor*) as his secretary. In this capacity, Mr. S. had several opportunities of displaying his abilities and intrepidity, particularly as one of the commissioners sent to treat of peace with Tippoo Sultan, and in the seizure of General Stuart, who seemed to have been preparing to act by Lord Macartney as had been before done by the unfortunate Lord Pigot. Mr. S. was sent with a small party of seapoys to arrest the general, which he effected with great spirit and prudence, and without bloodshed.

On his return to England, the India Company settled on him a pension of 500l. per annum, the king created

created him a baronet of Ireland, and the University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of L. L. D.

It having been resolved to send an embassy to China, Lord Macartney was selected for that purpose, and he took his old friend and countryman along with him, who was not only appointed secretary to the embassy, but had also the title of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary bestowed on him, in order to be able to supply the place of the ambassador, in case of any unfortunate accident.

The events of this embassy, which on the whole proved rather unpropitious, are well known, and are given to the public in two quarto volumes, written by Sir George*. When we consider the short time he took to compile them, and the severe illness he actually laboured under at the time, and with which he was attacked soon after his return, we cannot withhold our praise and approbation.

As a further proof of the esteem in which the India Company held Sir George Staunton, they appointed his son, who accompanied him in the voyage, a writer to China; and had the father's health permitted, he would again have attended Lord Macartney in some honourable and confidential station to his government at the Cape of Good Hope.

The memoirs of Sir George Staunton, if drawn up at full length, would exhibit a strong and ardent mind, labouring occasionally under difficulties, and surmounting dangers by patience, talents and intrepidity. His conduct in the seizure of General Stuart, demonstrates his resolution and presence of mind; and when treating with Tippoo, he had the address to induce M. Suffrein to suspend hostilities, even before he had received advice from his court of the treaty of peace being signed between Great Britain and France.

* The Dutch East Company have since undertaken a similar embassy, and we understand the very interesting narrative of it by VAN BRAAM, will shortly make its appearance in the English language.

DR. JOSEPH

DR. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, F.R.S. &c.

The names of Galileo and of Priestley, excite a multitude of melancholy ideas!—Late posterity will, however, do them justice; and although too late to be heard by the injured individuals, will rectify the mistaken opinions of their contemporaries. It will be scarcely believed, indeed, that within a few years of the commencement of the 19th century, an illustrious philosopher should have been driven from his native country on account of his supposed political opinions; and that a brutal mob should have been allowed, in the name of “Church and King,” to have destroyed his dwelling, threatened his person, and rendered his life unsafe, in the land which gave him birth!

Dr. Joseph Priestley was born March 13th, 1733, at Birstall-field-head, near Leeds, in Yorkshire.—This part of the country, for a long series of years, has been celebrated for its manufactures, and the Priestleys were one of the first families engaged in the broad-cloth trade. The Doctor, while only seven years of age, was taken into the house of an aunt, Mrs. Keighley, and was brought up by her husband, who having no child of his own, adopted, and appears to have transferred that affection to him, which nature had intended for his own offspring.

Mr. Joseph Keighley, after whom young Priestley was, most probably, named, was a remarkable character. He had been once, like St. Paul, a great persecutor, and like him too became a convert. So violent was he against the dissenters, that he was accustomed to find out their meetings, which, during the times of persecution, began about eleven o'clock at night, and ended at two o'clock in the morning. Happening once to discover their place of worship, he determined to secrete himself in a convenient place, in order to develope their heterodoxical tenets, ex-
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pose their heresies, detect their plots, and deliver them over to the vengeance of the civil magistrate. The event, however, was far different from what might have been expected from a man seemingly led astray by blind prejudices; for after attending to their rights, instead of delivering the minister up to punishment, he took him home to his house, and supported him there, until liberty was opened to the sect.

Under this singular person, Joseph Priestley was brought up, and soon discovered an amazing attachment to learning. At the age of eleven, he surprised all who saw him, in consequence of his early proficiency. At that time, he read, or rather devoured, Bunyan's works; and it was then thought that he would become one of the first Calvinistical teachers of his day. But as the Priestleys were then in a flourishing state, and acquired a certain degree of opulence and consideration by trade, they were inclined to bring him up to business. He, however, was at last sent to the academy at Daventry, under the care of Dr. Ashworth, with an intention of being bred to the dissenting ministry, and his uncle dying, his aunt paid the expences of his education.

But while the zealots for Calvinism were looking forward with complacency to the time when their apostle was to commence his pious labours, a change took place, from conviction in his religious tenets; for at this period he became acquainted with some Arian and Baxterian ministers, whose arguments appeared to be stronger than those with whom he had heretofore been accustomed to associate.

When about twenty years of age, he settled, for a little time, with a congregation at Needham in Suffolk; but as the opinions of the teacher did not correspond with those of his flock, and he was too honest to conceal his sentiments, he was soon deserted. In this situation he accepted of an invitation to Namptwich in Cheshire; although those who wished for his moral and spiritual assistance were not able to promise him more than 30*l.* per annum. In order to eke out this scanty income, he acted as a schoolmaster;

ter ; and happening to attract the notice of men capable of appreciating his worth, he soon acquired celebrity.

At this time, there existed a college at Warrington, in which the sons of many respectable dissenters were brought up, and where also a great number of young men were qualified for the ministry. Thither Mr. Priestley was invited, and taught the *belles lettres* in that institution, then in the zenith of its reputation.

As it was now a proper time for him to settle in life, and the means of maintaining a family presented itself, he determined to marry ; and was accordingly united to Miss Wilkinson, daughter of Mr. Wilkinson, of Bristol.

But the period had now arrived, however, when a great revolution was to take place in this once celebrated and flourishing seminary. The principal supporters of the academy, and those who had been most liberal in their subscriptions, being cut off in the course of nature, and not being succeeded by men equally warm in their zeal, a speedy dissolution was threatened.

At this time the Doctor received an invitation to preside over a flourishing and opulent congregation at Leeds, and was advised by his friends to remove thither.

After some years residence there, Lord Shelburne, now Marquis of Lansdowne, engaged him to superintend the education of his eldest son, Lord Wycomb, and he continued in that capacity during seven years. At the end of that period, he retired with an annuity of 150*l.* per annum : had he remained ten years, the sum would have amounted to 250*l.* ; and fourteen years' attendance would have raised it to 300*l.* according to previous agreement.

Soon after this, he had an invitation to Birmingham, where he continued until his place of residence, and the meeting-house in which he officiated, were both burnt to the ground !

A little subsequent to this catastrophe, Dr. Priestley succeeded his old friend, Dr. Price, in the dissenting

sending meeting at Hackney ; but his situation being rendered particularly unpleasant, and even unsafe, on account of the times, he purchased an estate in America, and removed thither in 1794.

Since his arrival in America, he has experienced many distinguished marks of favour and civility ; but these have been counterbalanced by severe afflictions, for he has buried a wife and a son.

The publications of Dr. Priestley are so numerous, that a bare analysis of them would fill a volume of itself. History, Divinity, Education, Politics, Philosophy, Metaphysics—all these, at different times, have been the subject of his lucubrations. But it is as an experimental philosopher, that his name and his works will be handed down to posterity. His chemical labours do honour to the nation that produced and exiled him. It is to him we are indebted for a knowledge of the element in which we exist ; and, alas ! at the very moment he had extended the empire of science, and analysed the properties of air, he was, in a manner, interdicted that of his native country, and forced to breath the atmosphere of another hemisphere !

MR. TAYLOR, THE PLATONIST.

THE subject of this article from his enthusiastick and undiverted attachment to the religion and philosophy of Plato, has been called by different writers, “ the modern Pletho*,” “ the Apostle of Paganism †,” and “ the gentile priest of England †.”

* In the second edition of the *Curiosities of Literature*.
See Analytical Review of his *Sallust*.

† See *Pursuits of Literature*.

This very singular man was born in London, in the year 1758, of obscure but worthy parents; and though in his literary career he has accomplished Herculean labours, yet we are informed that his body has been from his childhood weak and diseased; for at the early period of six years of age, alarming symptoms of a consumption induced his family to remove him for three years to Staffordshire. On returning thence, in his ninth year, he was sent to St. Paul's school, to be educated for a dissenting minister. Here, it seems, he soon gave indications of that contemplative turn of mind, and that aversion to merely verbal disquisitions, which have since become such predominant features in his character. In proof of this, Mr. Ryder, one of the masters of the school, whenever a sentence occurred remarkably moral or grave, in any classic which young Taylor was translating to him, would always preface it by saying to the youthful Platonist: "Come, here is something worthy the attention of a philosopher.*" The boy, indeed, was so disgusted with the arbitrary manner in which the dead languages are taught in that, as well as in all other public schools, that he entreated, and at length prevailed on his father to take him home, and abandon his design of educating him for the ministry. The parent complied indeed, but with great reluctance, as he considered the office of a dissenting minister, the most desirable and the most enviable employment upon earth!

About this time Mr. T. happened to become acquainted with a Miss Morton, the eldest daughter of a respectable coal merchant in Doctor's Commons, for whom, although he was but twelve years of age, he conceived such an attachment, as neither time nor

* Thus too, at an early period, one of the first scholars of the age, discovered the *critical* turn of his mind: for when, on reading the Latin Testament, *at* *Jesus* was printed instead of *ait* *Jesus*, he shrewdly conjectured that *at* must be a verb, and be derived from *ae*.

distance could dissolve or impair. This young lady (his present wife) had received an elegant education, and united with an agreeable person, uncommon modesty, liberality and artless manners. Mr. T. has often declared that he was then as deeply in love as the most famous hero of romance, and that to see and converse with his adored fair one, formed the very summit of his wishes.

During Mr. T's residence at home, while his father was yet undetermined as to his future situation in life, he happened to meet with Ward's Young Mathematician's Guide, and was so struck, in looking over the book, with the singularity of *negative quantities*, when multiplied together producing *positive* ones, that he immediately conceived a strong desire to become acquainted with mathematicks. His father, however, who was deeply skilled in modern theology, but utterly unacquainted with this sublime and most useful species of learning, was, it seems, averse to his son's engaging in such a course of study; but Mr. T's ardour soon enabled him to triumph over all opposition, by devoting the hours of rest to mathematical lucubrations, though to accomplish this he was obliged to conceal a *tinder-box* under his pillow.

To this early acquaintance with these leading branches of mathematical sciences, arithmetick, algebra, and geometry, Mr. T. ascribes his present unrivalled attachment to the philosophy of Plato, and all the substantial felicity of his life.

About this time, viz. at the age of fifteen. Mr. T. was placed under an uncle-in-law at Sheerness, who happened to be one of the officers of that dock yard. Here at his leisure hours, which were but few, he still pursued the study of the speculative part of mathematicks; for he was of opinion that those sciences were degraded when applied to practical affairs, without then knowing that the same sentiment had been adopted by Pythagoras, Plato, and Archimedes. Here, likewise, he read Bolingbroke and Hume, and
by

by studying their works become a convert to the *sceptical philosophy*.

The behaviour, however, of his uncle-in-law was so very tyrannical, and his opportunities for the acquisition were so very inadequate to his thirst for knowledge, that after having been in what he considered a state of slavery during three years, he determined to break his fetters, and, as he could find no other refuge from oppression, cast himself once more into the arms of the church.

For this purpose he left Sheerness, and became, during the space of two years, a pupil of one of the most celebrated dissenting preachers. Under this gentleman he recovered his knowledge of the rudiments of the Latin and Greek tongues, but made no great advances in the attainment of those languages, as his mind, naturally propense to the study of things, required an uncommon stimulus, to make it stoop to an attention to words. This stimulus, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle could alone inspire,

Mr. T. it seems, during this course of ministerial study repewed with redoubled ardour his acquaintance with Miss M. ; and what indeed is singular in the extreme, was able to unite in amicable league, courtship and study. Hence he applied himself to Greek and Latin in the day, paid his addresses to his fair one in the evening, and had the courage to begin and read through the Latin quarto of Simpson's Conic Sections at night.

About this time Mr. T. entered on the study of the modern philosophy, and thinking himself qualified by his knowledge of the more obtruse parts of the mathematics, to understand the system of the universe as delivered in the *Principia* of Newton, he began to read that difficult work. We are informed, however, that he soon closed the book with disgust, exclaiming, "Newton is indeed a great mathematician, but no philosopher!" He was principally induced it seems to form this conclusion, by Sir Isaac's asser-
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tion* "that every the least possible particle of matter
 "or body, attracts all bodies at all distances; that
 "the being, whatever it is, that attracts or impels
 "bodies towards each other, proceeds from those bo-
 "dies to which it belongs, and penetrates the whole
 "substance of the bodies on which it acts." It ap-
 peared to him, that from this assertion it must inevi-
 tably follow, that bodies act immediately or by them-
 selves, without the intervention of any other being,
 in a place where they are not, since attraction is the
immediate action of attracting bodies; that they thus
 act in many places at the same time; that they pene-
 trate each other; and that the least particle of matter
 is extended as far as the limits of the universe: all
 which consequences he considered as glaringly absurd.

Thus far the stream of Mr. T.'s life may be said to
 have run with an equal tenour, limpid, and unruffled,
 compared with its course in the succeeding period, in
 which it resembled some dark river rolling with im-
 petuous rage to the main.

The time now drew nigh, in which Mr. T. was to
 leave his fair one for the university. But as her fa-
 ther, in his absence, intended to marry her to a man
 of large fortune, who had made her the offer of his
 hand, Miss M. to secure herself from the *tyrannical*
 exertion of parental authority, generously consented
 to unite herself to our philosopher, on condition that
 nothing further than the marriage ceremony took
 place, till he had finished his studies at Aberdeen.
 This he immediately assented to, and the indissoluble
 knot was tied.

But when the fates are adverse, how vain are the
 most prudent projects! how unfortunate the most ge-
 neros intentions! The low cunning of Mr. T.'s
 mother-in-law discovered the secret, soon after the
 union of the platonic pair; who, from a combina-
 tion of ecclesiastical indignation with parental rage,

* Prop. 6. 7. & 8. L. 3.

were for a time exposed to the insult of undeserved reproach, and the bitterness of real distress.

We are happy to find, however, that Mr. and Mrs. T. exculpate their parents on this occasion: Mr. T. entirely ascribing his father's conduct to the malicious misrepresentation of his mother-in-law, and the anger of the church, and Mrs. T. to the unnatural and selfish conduct of some of her very near relations.

Whether Mr. T.'s great aversion to presbyterians and presbyterian ministers, originated in this or some other circumstance, we are unable to determine. Certain, however, it is, that he has ever since considered the clergy of this description, as men implacable in their resentments, whom neither pity can soften, nor penitence appease; and has often been heard to say, that of all the christian sects, the members of the church of England are the best, and the presbyterians the worst.

Such indeed was the distressed situation of this young couple at this period, that we are informed they had no more than seven shillings to subsist on, for nearly a-twelvemonth! This was owing to the base artifice of one of Mrs. T.'s relatives, who was left executor, and who prevailed on her father, at this time in a dying state, to let him pay her what he had left her as he pleased. Mr. T. endeavoured indeed to obtain employment as an usher to a boarding-school; but it was sometime before he was able to effect this, as he was abandoned both by friends and relatives, and could not even borrow ten shillings and six-pence, which it seems is the usual fee of those who procure such situations.

At length he was separated from his partner in affliction, and settled as usher to a boarding-school at Paddington. As his embarrassments were such, that he was unable to remove Mrs. T. from Camberwell, where she then resided, and the only time he was permitted to see her was on Saturday afternoon, he could

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enjoy but little of her company. This little, however, was doubtless dear in proportion to its brevity, and the remembrance of past pain would, it may be presumed, be lost in the overflowings of reciprocal love.

Mrs. T.'s affection was, indeed, as we are informed, so great for her unfortunate husband, that though then in a state of pregnancy, she almost deprived herself of the necessaries of life, that she might purchase out of her weekly pittance of seven shillings a comfortable dinner for Mr. T. on Saturday; and letters, it seems, during this painful separation passed between them, replete with sentiments which express the most tender and disinterested regard.

Mr. T. however, finding the situation of an usher in itself extremely disagreeable, and when attended with such a separation from his partner in calamity, intolerable, determined if possible to obtain a less irksome employment; and at length, by the exertions of his few friends, he obtained a clerk's place in a respectable banking-house in the city. In this situation, however, he at first suffered greatly; for as his income was but fifty pounds a year, and this paid quarterly, and as he had not any money to spare for himself, and could not from his embarrassments quit his lodgings at Camberwell, he was unable to procure nutriment in the course of the day, adequate to the great labours he endured. Hence, he was so exhausted by the time he reached home in the evening, that he frequently fell senseless on the floor.

We are informed that Mr. T. soon after he was settled in this new employment, took a house at Walworth, by the assistance of a friend, who had been his schoolfellow; finding a residence at some small distance from town, necessary for his own health and that of Mrs. T. and much more favourable to the cultivation of his mind, of which he never seems to have lost sight, even amidst the lassitude of bodily

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About this time Mr. T's studies, it seems, were chiefly confined to chemistry. Of all the authors in this branch of natural philosophy, he was most attached to Becher, whose *Physica Subterranea* he read with great avidity, and became a complete convert to the doctrines of that illustrious chemist. He did not, however, neglect mathematicks; but, in consequence of having thought much on the quadrature of the circle, and believing he had discovered a method by which the rectification of it might be geometrically, though not arithmetically, obtained, he found means to publish a quarto pamphlet on that subject, which he entitled "A new Method of reasoning in Geometry." The substance of this pamphlet, as it did not attract the attention of the public, he has since given to the world in a note, in the first volume of his translation of Proclus on Euclid.

Hitherto Mr. Taylor's studies may be considered as merely preparatory to those speculations, which were to distinguish him in the literary world; at least, they are considered in this light by the followers of Plato. It appears too, that, without knowing it, he was led to the mystic discipline of that sublime philosopher, in the exact order prescribed by his disciples; for he began with studying the works of Aristotle. He was induced, it seems, to engage in this course of study, by a passage in Sir Kenelm Digby's treatise "on Bodies and Man's Soul," in which he says, "that the name of
E Aristotle

"Aristotle ought never to be mentioned by scholars but with reverence, on account of his incomparable worth." This eulogium from a man who was very far from being a Peripatetic, determined Mr. T. to enter on the study of Aristotle, as soon as he could procure any of his works, and had sufficiently recovered his knowledge of Greek.

By a fortunate circumstance, he soon met with a copy of that philosopher's *Physics*, and before he had read a page, was so enamoured with his pregnant brevity, accuracy and depth, that he resolved to make the study of Aristotle's philosophy the great business of his life. Such, indeed, was his avidity to accomplish this design, that he was soon able to read that great master in the original; and has often been heard to say, that he learned Greek rather through the Greek philosophy, than the Greek philosophy through Greek.

However, as he was engaged every day in the banking-house till at least seven in the evening, and sometimes till nine or ten, he was obliged to devote part of the night to study. Hence we are informed, that for several years, while he was at the banker's, he seldom went to bed before two or three o'clock in the morning; and having, by contemplative habits, learned to divest himself during the time which he set apart for study of all concern about the common affairs of life, his attention was not diverted from Aristotle, either by the inconveniencies arising from his slender income, or solicitude about the business of the day.

By the assistance of Aristotle's Greek Interpreters, therefore, Mr. T. read the *Physics*, books *de Anima*, *de Cælo*, *Logic*, *Morals*, and *Metaphysics*, of that philosopher: for, in the opinion of Mr. T. a man might as reasonably expect to understand Archimedes, who had never read Euclid, as to comprehend either Aristotle or Plato, who wrote obscurely from design, without the assistance of their Greek commentators. Hence he has often been heard to say, that the folly of neglecting the invaluable commentaries of the
ancients,

ancients, on those philosophers, is only to be equalled by the arrogance of such as affect to despise them; since these interpreters possessed a traditional knowledge of the Greek philosophy, had books to consult on that subject which are now lost, spent their whole lives in the study of it, were men of the deepest erudition, and must be infinitely better qualified to explain the meaning of the text of Plato and Aristotle, than any modern can pretend to be, because the Greek was their native tongue. Mr. T. even carries his attachment to these interpreters so far as to assert, that from the oblivion in which they have been so long concealed, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle has not been accurately understood for upwards of a thousand years.

Mr. T. therefore, who, by divesting himself at night of those habits of business which he had been contracting in the day, may be said in this respect to have resembled Penelope, made it a constant rule to digest what he had learned from Aristotle, while he was walking about with bills. This, when he was once master of his employment, he accomplished with great facility, without either committing mistakes, or retarding his business. We are, indeed, informed from good authority, that while in that department, he was always distinguished for accuracy and dispatch.

Mr. T. having in this manner applied himself to the study of Aristotle, and presuming that he was sufficiently instructed in his philosophy, betook himself to the more sublime speculations of Plato; considering the Peripatetic discipline, when compared with that of Plato, as bearing the relation of the less to the greater mysteries, and in this light it seems, the two philosophies were always considered by the best of the Platonists.

Mr. T. had not long entered on the study of Plato, before he met with the works of Plorinus, which he read, we are told, with an insatiable avidity, and the most rapturous delight, notwithstanding the obscurity of his diction, and the profundity of his
conceptions.

conceptions. After having been well imbued in the doctrines of Plotinus, he betook himself to the six books of Proclus, on the Theology of Plato, a work which he found to be so uncommonly abstruse, that he has been heard to say, he did not thoroughly understand it, till he had read it thrice over.

While he was engaged in the study of Proclus, who appears upon the whole to be of all the Platonists Mr. T's greatest favourite, the celebrated Mrs. Woolstoncraft, and her friend Miss Blood, resided with our Philosopher for nearly three months. Mr. T. has been known to observe of Mrs. W. that during her stay with him, he thought her a very modest, sensible, and agreeable young lady; that she often heard him explain the doctrines of Plato, and was always pleased with his conversation on that subject; but confessed herself more inclined to an active than a contemplative life. She often too complimented him on the tranquillity of his manners, and used to call the little room which he made his study, "the abode of peace."

Mr. T. observed, that he afterwards called on her when she lived in George-street, and that he has there drank wine with her out of a *tea cup*; Mrs. W. remarking at the time, that she did not give herself the trouble to think whether a wine-glass was not a necessary utensil in a house. He added, he has heard her say, "that one of the conditions she should make previous to marriage, with the man she intended for her husband, would be this— that he should never presume to enter the room in which she was sitting, till he had first knocked at the door."

But to return from these eccentricities, which would not have been worthy of remark in a woman of less merit, to our Platonist. When Mr. T. had been nearly six years at the banking-house, he became so disgusted with the servility of the employment, and found his health so much impaired from the combination of severe bodily and mental efforts, added to an incurable disorder in the bladder, which he

he had laboured under for a long time, that he determined to emancipate himself, if possible, from slavery, and live by the exertion of his talents.

In order to effect this, he turned his attention to a subject, which he had often thought on in the days of his youth, viz. the possibility of making a *perpetual lamp*; as he was convinced, from Licetus and Bishop Wilkins, that such lamps had been constructed by the ancients. He began, therefore, to make some experiments with phosphorus, determining for a while to descend from mind to matter, and stoop in order to conquer. In the course of these experiments he found that oil and salt boiled together, in a certain proportion, formed a fluid, which when phosphorus was immersed in it, both preserved and increased its splendour.

In consequence of this discovery, he exhibited at the Free Masons' tavern a specimen of phosphoric light, sufficient to read by at the distance of a yard; but the room in which this was shewn being small, and very warm from the weather, and the number of persons that came to see it, the phosphorus caught fire, and thus raised a prejudice against the invention, which could never afterwards be removed.— This exhibition, however procured Mr. T. such friends* as at length enabled him to emancipate himself from the banker's, and procure subsistence for himself and his family by literary toil.

His first effort after this, to emerge from obscurity, was by composing twelve Lectures on the Platonic philosophy, at the request of Mr. Flaxman, the statuary, who had been one of the auditors of Mr. T's Lectures on Light, and who very benevolently permitted him to read his Lectures in the largest room of his house. He likewise procured for him some very respectable auditors, such as Sir Wm. Fordyce, the Hon. Mrs. Damer, Mrs. Cosway, Mr. Romney, &c. &c. and was the means of his becoming acquainted

† This we are informed, was principally through the means of Mr. Geo. Cumberland, the Author of several ingenious works.

with Mr. Bennet Langton, well known for his great intimacy with the late Dr. Johnson.

To this gentleman he read his Platonic Lectures, with which Mr. L. was so much pleased, as likewise with the conversation and uncommon application which our Platonist had given to study, that he at length mentioned him to the king, under the appellation of *a gigantic reader*, in hopes that the rays of royal attention might be so strongly collected upon him, as to dissipate the obscurity in which he was then involved, and give additional vigour and ardour to his pursuits. Mr. L. it seems, mentioned him thrice to his majesty, who was pleased to enquire after his family, and to express his admiration of Mr. T's ardour and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge, in a situation so unfavourable to its acquisition as that of a banker's clerk; but we do not find that this well-meant effort on the part of Mr. L. procured our Platonist any patronage from the throne.

About this time, Mr. T. became acquainted with Mr. William Meredith of Harley-place, a circumstance which he justly considers as forming, by far, one of the most important and fortunate events of his life. This gentleman, as we are informed, in addition to an ample fortune, possesses a most elegant and liberal mind; and though concerned in a very extensive trade, has found leisure for the study of the best English writers, and the best English translations of the works of the ancients. He became deeply enamoured with the doctrines of Plato, from reading Mr. Sydenham's translation of some of that philosopher's dialogues; and this fondness for Plato, at length occasioned his attachment to Mr. Taylor.

We are happy in being able to assure the public, on good authority, that under the very noble and singular patronage of this gentleman, and his brother Mr. George Meredith, Mr. T. was enabled to give the world his translation of "the Hymns of Orpheus," "the Commentaries of Proclus on Euclid," and "the Fable of Cupid and Psyche." The abilities of the

the latter of these gentlemen in the art he professes*, and his knowledge of the Gothic architecture, which he has displayed in many beautiful drawings, have seldom been equalled, and will rarely be excelled. We likewise do not in the least doubt but that Mr. T. in the course of his stormy life, has experienced the liberality of these gentlemen upon occasions with which we are entirely unacquainted.

While Mr. T. was engaged, under the patronage of Messrs. W. and G. M. in translating and illustrating at his leisure hours the Commentaries of Proclus (for the principal part of his time was employed in teaching the Classics), the Marquis de Valady took up his residence for three or four months at Mr. T's house. As the public have already been much gratified with anecdotes† of this singular character, and particularly with his adventures with Mr. T. we shall insert in addition to those, the following particulars, which our Platonist has been heard to mention respecting him.

The Marquis, who professed himself a rigid Pythagorean, under the notion that a community of possessions in *every thing* was perfectly Pythagoric, often conversed with Mr. T. on this subject, and once asked him, if he did not think it consistent with Pythagorean friendship, for the wife of the married to be shared by the unmarried friend? The *hint was broad*; but Mr. T. thought proper not to take it; on the contrary, he severely reprobated the idea, as entirely foreign from that purity of conduct which forms the basis of the Pythagoric and Platonic philosophy.

He likewise once told Mr. T. that if he had a son, he should make him, as soon as he had the proper use of his limbs, climb a high tree every morning for

* Architecture.

† See "Biographical Anecdotes of the Founders of the French Republic," Vol. I.

his breakfast, and afterwards fling him into a river, in order to learn him to swim.

Dining once at Mr. Bennet Langton's with Mr. T. Mr (now Dr.) Burney, and many other eminent scholars, he exclaimed to his friend, as soon as he left the house, "God keep me from Critics!" This was occasioned by a dispute which arose at that time respecting the propriety of the epithet *ocean stream*, which Mr. T. had made use of in his translation of one of the Orphic hymns. Mr. T. urged in his defence, that this epithet was employed by Homer, Hesiod, and Plato. To this Dr. B. replied, that Homer indeed had the expression *ωκεανον ποταμον*, *the ocean-river*, but that a *river* was not a *stream*. Mr. T. then observed, that these words were considered as synonymous by no less poets than Milton and Sir John Denham. By Milton, when speaking of the leviathan (*Paradise Lost*, book I.), he says,

"——— or that sea beast

"Leviathan, whom God of all his works

"Created hugest, that swim th' *ocean stream*."

And by Denham, in the first of those famous lines on the Thames :

"O could I flow like thee, and make thy *stream*

"My great exemplar, as it is my theme."

The genius of the Marquis seemed naturally inclined to war. Whenever he went to bed, he was heard to repeat as he was going up stairs, those animated lines of Neptune to the Greeks, from the *Iliad* by Pope :

"——— On dastards, dead to fame,

"I wait no anger, for they feel no shame!"

And if ever any one attempted to prove that modern warriors were equally heroic with the ancient ones, he would indignantly exclaim, in the words of Minerva to Tydides :

"Such Tydeus was, and such his martial fire ;

"Gods ! how the son degenerates from the fire."

We

We find that Mr. T. soon after the Marquis left him, came into the possession of six or seven hundred pounds, in consequence of the death of a relation of his wife. A considerable part of this, it seems, Mr. T. spent in relieving the necessities of his own relations; but was not sufficiently a man of the world to know how to dispose of the remaining part of it to his own advantage. About five or six years after this, he again seems to have laboured under the pressure of want; to relieve which, with incredible diligence, he translated, and illustrated with copious introductions and some notes, five of the most abstruse of Plato's Dialogues, in the short space of about seven months; the copy of which he sold for no more than forty pounds!

After this, he wrote his "Dissertation on the 'Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries,'" in consequence of some considerable information on that subject which he had obtained from the perusal of three Greek manuscripts in the British Museum. One of these, it seems, is the Commentary of Proclus on the Parmenides of Plato, and is a folio volume consisting of upwards of five hundred pages. This with the other two, which are likewise folio volumes of no inconsiderable size, Mr. T. had the courage to copy for his own private use.

Shortly after this, he translated the Platonic Sallust "On the Gods and the World;" the "Pythagoric Sentences of Demophilus;" and five Hymns of Proclus; likewise Two Orations of the Emperor Julian; and Five Books of Plotinus: all which, we are informed, he sold for no more than twenty pounds!

But the most laborious of all his undertakings, and for which he seems to have received less in proportion than for any of his other publications, was his translation of Pausanias. When this task was first proposed to Mr. T. by the book-seller, Mr. Samuel Patterson, well known to the literary world by several very ingenious publications, happening to be present, observed, "that it was enough to break a man's

"a man's heart." "O (replied the book-seller,) nothing will break the heart of Mr. T.!" This Herculean labour our Platonist accomplished in the space of ten months, though the notes are of such an extent, and so full of uncommonly abstruse learning, that the composition of them might be supposed to have taken up a much longer time. For that arduous work, we almost blush to say, Mr. T. received no more than sixty pounds; and we are grieved to add, that his health was greatly injured by his excessive application on that occasion. We are indeed informed, that the debility of his body became so extreme after this, that at times he was incapable of any exertion; and what is singular, he has ever since been deprived of the use of his forefinger in writing.

Our Platonist, however, in a short time exhibited an indubitable proof that he possesses an ardour which neither toil can abate, embarrassments impede, nor even debility extinguish; and which, like gunpowder set on fire, seems to rise with renewed vigour, in proportion as it has been compressed. Notwithstanding the extreme lassitude of his whole bodily frame, and the difficulty with which he was able to write, he engaged, under the patronage of an anonymous gentleman of fortune, to translate all those dialogues of Plato which have not been clothed in our native dress by Mr. Sydenham and others, together with his epistles, in order that by revising what has been already done, he might give the whole of Plato to the world in an English garb. This great undertaking we understand he accomplished in the space of about two years; and the work now only waits for a liberal patronage to be made public.

Under the patronage too of the same gentleman, he has translated the greater part of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and at present we hear Messrs. W. and G. Meredith have engaged him to translate Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, of which he has already nearly accomplished the three first books.

We are likewise happy to inform the public, from
 E 5. good

good authority, that Thomas Brand Hollis, esq. has been for many years very much attached to our Platonist; that he frequently invites him to his table; and that he has always shewn himself active in promoting his welfare, though we are uncertain as to the time when Mr. T's intimacy with Mr. Hollis commenced.

We shall only add, that Mr. T. is at present assistant secretary to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce; a situation which he obtained by a very considerable majority of votes, through the uncommon exertions of his friends; and that prior to this, some of them had procured him a situation in one of the public offices, to the fatigues of which finding his strength by no means adequate, and the employment appearing to him extremely servile, he relinquished it almost immediately after his nomination, and composed the following lines on the occasion:

To ev'ry power that reigns on high,
Swifter than light my thanks shall fly,
That, from the B——'s dark dungeons free,
I once more hail sweet liberty.
For sure, I ween, fate ne'er me doom'd
To be 'midst sordid cares entomb'd,
And vilely waste in groveling toil
The mid-day blaze and mid-night oil,
To some poor darkling desk confin'd;
While the wing'd energies of mind
Oppress'd and crush'd, and vanquish'd lie,
And lose at length the power to fly.

A doom like this be his alone,
To whom truth's charms were never known;
Who many sleepless nights has spent,
In schemes full fraught with CENT. PER CENT.
The slave of av'rice, child of care,
And lost to all that's good and fair,

GENERAL MELVILLE,

A man of amiable manners, and extensive information, is the son of a Scotch gentleman of small fortune. Entering early into the army, at the beginning of the war of 1756, he had risen to the rank of major, in the 38th, or Durore's, regiment of foot; with which regiment he embarked for the West Indies, and served under General Hopson, when that officer made his unsuccessful attack on Martinico.

The army having after this proceeded to Guadeloupe—the major served under General Barrington in the reduction of that place; and when Fort-Royal was taken, he was appointed to command it. No sooner was he invested with this post, than he was immediately attacked by the enemy; but by a judiciousally he forced their entrenchments, and spiked their cannon. On this occasion the *commandant* was wounded, but not so as to preclude him from the exercise of his talents, for he was entrusted by the conqueror with the office of lieutenant-governor of the island.

Soon after this, he was made lieutenant-colonel of the 38th regiment, which, we believe, is the last *regimental* promotion he obtained in the army.

On the establishment of the governments of the ceded islands upon the peace, Colonel Melville was appointed governor of Grenada, in which capacity he resided on the spot for several years, and acquired a handsome estate there. While in this situation he was honoured with the local rank of major-general in the West-Indies, and has since risen to the full rank of general in the army, to which station he was promoted in 1780.

This

This gentleman's ample fortune, and the unfortunate * accident which deprived him of his sight, have rendered any profitable post in the army on the one hand unnecessary, and on the other impracticable.

Since his return from the West-Indies, the general has associated much with the literary world, and to his honour be it spoken, has been very active in promoting public charities of all kinds, of which the present flourishing state of the Scots' corporation is a strong evidence. He has also written two or three much esteemed papers for the Royal Society, of which he is a member—these are to be met with in the Philosophical Transactions.

When Tobago was relinquished at the peace of 1783, General Melville and Sir William Younge were sent to France by the proprietors of lands in that island, to solicit some terms in their favour, as it had been ceded without the necessary stipulations for their property. Their mission, although not completely successful, was on the whole prosperous.

While General Melville governed Grenada, a party was formed, and some complaints were transmitted home against him: it is but candid, however, to suppose, what every one personally acquainted with that gentleman will be most readily disposed to believe, that on this, as on every other occasion, he conducted himself with a due regard to propriety.

The General is a man of very liberal principles, both in respect to politics and religion, having voted at the Westminster Election for John Horne Tooke, Esq. and been one of the subscribers to Mr. David Williams's chapel, in Mortimer-street.

We have only to add; that he is uncommonly skilled in military affairs, and that his general conversation is rarely to be equalled for its fluency and propriety.

* This melancholy event occurred in consequence of the explosion of some gun-powder, while in actual service.

BEILBY PORTEUS, D. D.

LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

RELIGION, in looking round among her most brilliant ornaments, and most powerful advocates of the present age, can hardly fix upon a more favourite object, than the very amiable and truly primitive prelate, who now claims our notice. Far be it from us to depreciate the merits of any divine, much less to exalt the character of one member of the episcopacy at the expence of another. Still we are confident, that all ranks and parties will agree with us in saying, that a more beautiful picture of genuine christian simplicity, united with episcopal dignity, was never exhibited to public observation, than in the subject of this biographical sketch.

Dr. Beilby Porteus is a native of Yorkshire, and was born about 1731. His father was a reputable tradesman, who, after giving his son a good education, at the grammar school of Rippon, under the Rev. Mr. Hyde, sent him to Cambridge, where he was entered of Christ's College. In this respectable society he distinguished himself by an assiduous application to his studies, directing them in an especial manner to that sacred function for which he had an early predilection, and in which he has since so eminently shone.

He took his degree of B. A. in 1752, and in the course of the same year gained one of the medals given for the best classical essay by the Duke of Newcastle, then Chancellor of the University.

March 14, 1754, he was appointed one of the Esquire Beadles of the University, which office he resigned July 3, 1755, and in the same year took his degree of Master of Arts. Nearly about this period he was elected Fellow of his College, and was made

made one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel. In 1759, he obtained the Seatonian prize, for the best composition on DEATH. This poem evinces great poetical powers, and as it is the only piece of his, in this line, that has ever appeared in public, except a few verses on the death of the late King, we trust that the reader will be pleased with an extract from it in this place. The part we select is the poet's concluding prayer :

“ At thy good time,
 “ Let death approach ; I reckon not—let him but come
 “ In genuine form, not with thy vengeance arm'd,
 “ Too much for man to bear. O rather lend
 “ Thy kindly aid, to mitigate his stroke.
 “ (And at that hour, when all aghast I stand
 “ (A trembling candidate for thy compassion)
 “ On this world's brink, and look into the next :
 “ When my soul, starting from the dark unknown,
 “ Casts back a wishful look, and fondly clings
 “ To her frail prop, unwilling to be wrench'd
 “ From this fair scene, from all her custom'd joys,
 “ And all the lovely relatives of life,
 “ Then shed thy comforts o'er me ; then put on
 “ The gentlest of thy looks.—Let no dark crimes,
 “ In all their hideous forms then starting up,
 “ Plant themselves round my couch in grim array,
 “ And stab my bleeding heart with two-edg'd torture—
 “ Sense of past guilt, and dread of future woe.
 “ Far be the ghastly crew ! And in their stead
 “ Let cheerful memory, from her purest cells,
 “ Lead forth a goodly train of virtues fair,
 “ Cherish'd in earliest youth, now paying back,
 “ With tenfold usury, the pious care,
 “ And pouring o'er my wounds the heav'nly balm
 “ Of conscious innocence. But chiefly Thou,
 “ Whom soft-ey'd Pity once led down from heav'n
 “ To bleed for man, to teach him how to live,
 “ And, oh ! still harder lesson ! how to die ;
 “ Disdain not Thou to smooth the restless bed
 “ Of sickness and of pain. Forgive the tear
 “ That feeble nature drops, calm all her fears,
 “ Wake all her hopes, and animate her faith,
 “ Till my rapt soul, anticipating heaven,
 “ Bursts from the thralldom of incumb'ring clay,
 “ And, on the wings of ecstacy upborne,
 “ Springs into liberty, and light, and life !”

In 1760, appeared a singular piece of infidelity, under the title of "The History of the Man after God's own heart," written by Peter Annet, with a view of exposing the sacred history to contempt, on account of the defects in the character of David. Though this performance was exceedingly deficient in point of argument, it was calculated to do considerable mischief from its sophistry, boldness and vivacity. On this account, several able writers undertook to vindicate the scriptures, and among the rest our ingenious divine published a sermon, preached Nov. 29, 1761, before the University of Cambridge, which he entitled "The Character of David, King of Israel, impartially stated."

This discourse, it is supposed, recommended him to the patronage of Dr. Secker, then Archbishop of Canterbury, who appointed him about this time one of his domestic chaplains, and in 1762 presented him to the rectory of Wittersham, in Kent.

In 1764, that excellent prelate gave him the rectory of Bucking, in the same county, and also a prebendal stall in the cathedral church of Peterborough.

May 13, 1765, Mr. Porteus was married by the Archbishop to Miss Hodgson, of Parliament-street, and in the same year he obtained the valuable living of Hunton. He was created doctor of divinity, July 7, 1767, and in the month following the Archbishop gave him the rectory of Lambeth, vacant by the death of Dr. Denne, with which he was allowed to hold the rectory of Hunton.

In 1768, Archbishop Secker died, and by his will intrusted to his chaplains, Drs. Porteus and Stinton, the revision and publication of his Lectures on the Church Catechism, Sermons, &c. This trust was most faithfully executed; and to the sermons, which were published in 1770, was prefixed an elegant memoir, respecting the venerable author, solely written by Dr. Porteus; this was reprinted in a separate form in 1798, with additions, and it is surely

surely sufficient praise to observe, that this piece of biography obtained the approbation of Dr. Johnson.

In 1776, our divine became master of St. Cross, an option of Archbishop Secker; and in January following he was deservedly raised to the episcopal bench, by the translation of Dr. Markham from the see of Chester to the Archbishopric of York. This promotion, it is generally understood, was owing to the immediate solicitation of the Queen, to whom Dr. Porteus has been particularly acceptable as a private chaplain, when she was indisposed. In this station he conducted himself with primitive zeal, and blended with true episcopal dignity, all the simplicity and earnestness of a christian minister.

In 1776, observing the negligence with which that awful day appropriated by the church, in early ages, to the commemoration of the sufferings and death of the Redeemer was treated, especially in the metropolis, his lordship printed "An earnest Exhortation to the religious Observance of Good Friday, in a Letter to the Inhabitants of Lambeth." This address excited considerable notice, and the ingenious Mr. Robert Robinson, of Cambridge, published a pamphlet in reply to it, under the title of the "History and Mystery of Good Friday."

The Bishop, however, had the satisfaction to see that his exhortation was attended with the desired effects. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge seconded his laudable endeavours, by causing his pamphlet to be printed in a cheap form, and circulated in great abundance, by which means, numbers were induced to see the necessity of paying a proper respect to this solemn anniversary; so that from that time it has usually been kept in the metropolis and its vicinity with great strictness.

In 1783, the Bishop of Chester preached before the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, on which occasion he pleaded in a forcible and pathetic manner, the cause of the African slaves, in our West-Indian settlements. This sermon attracted considerable notice; and led the way to great exertions

exertions on behalf of those unfortunate victims of avarice and oppression.

In 1787, on the death of Bishop Lowth, Doctor Porteus was translated to the see of London, a circumstance which gave universal satisfaction to every friend of religion, whether in or out of the establishment.

In 1792, his Lordship was the means of founding a society for the conversion of the negro slaves in the West-Indies, which we have the satisfaction to find has been very successful. His exertions in the cause of christianity have been unremitted, and conducted upon the most liberal principles. The breath of censure has not ventured to assail his name, even with the suspicion of reproach. Men of all parties have concurred in praising his candor, faithfulness, moderation, and liberality of mind.

In order to counteract the spirit of infidelity, his Lordship commenced during last Lent a series of lectures on the Truth of the Gospel History, and the Divinity of Christ's Mission, which he preached in St. James's church, Westminster; and which will be resumed at the same season next year. These were delivered every Friday, before crowded and admiring audiences, composed of persons of all persuasions. His warm and impressive manner, plain but forcible language, clear and convincing arguments, aided by a most captivating eloquence, not only drew from the multitudes who heard him the unanimous voice of applause, but, it is to be hoped, produced a more substantial good, in bringing conviction home to many minds.

The Bishop is, we believe, a more frequent preacher than the rest of his brethren; for he is not only ready to assist public charities by his elocution, but during his summer residence in the country, he often ascends the pulpit to explain the principles, and enforce the precepts, of our sublime religion.

We cannot close this imperfect sketch of so brilliant a character, without mentioning one part of his conduct, which entitles him to additional praise.
The

The point we allude to, is the moderate spirit he has manifested in the agitation of political questions. Though he has uniformly voted with his Majesty's ministers; he has not made himself an active partizan, by throwing fuel upon the unhappy fire which distracts the public mind. On the contrary he has steered that pacific course, which becomes an ambassador of the Prince of Peace; the apostle of him who emphatically said, that "he was not the king of this world."

Bishop Porteus is not only eminent for his piety, but also for his literary accomplishments, which rank him among the most elegant scholars of the age. His style is pure and classically correct, at the same time that it is remarkably plain and free from ornament.

Besides the pieces already mentioned, he is the author of two volumes of most excellent sermons; and several Charges and small tracts, on religious subjects.

W.

JOSIAH TUCKER, D.D.

DEAN OF GLOUCESTER.

THIS venerable divine, so long, and so justly celebrated for his commercial sagacity, was born at Laugharn, in Caermarthenshire, in the year 1712.—His father was a farmer, and having a small estate left him at or near Aberystwith, in Cardiganshire, he removed thither; and perceiving that his son had a turn for learning, he sent him to Ruthin school in Denbighshire, where he made so respectable a progress in the classics, that he obtained an exhibition at Jesus College, Oxford.

The

The journey from his native place to the University was long, and at that time very tedious, on account of the badness of the roads. Our young student for some time travelled on foot. At last, old Mr. Tucker, feeling for his son's reputation, as well as for his ease, gave him his own horse, that he might visit Oxford more reputably.

Upon his return, young Josiah, with true filial affection, considered that it was better for him to walk to Oxford, than for his father to repair on foot to the neighbouring markets and fairs, which had been, in fact, the case, owing to this new regulation. The horse was accordingly returned; and our student, for the remainder of the time he continued at the University, actually trudged backwards and forwards with his baggage at his back!

At the age of twenty-three he entered into holy orders, and served a curacy for some time in Gloucestershire.

About 1737, he became curate of St. Stephen's church in Bristol, and was appointed minor canon in the cathedral of that city. Here he attracted the notice of that profound divine, Dr. Joseph Butler, then Bishop of Bristol, and afterwards of Durham.—In consequence of this, the Bishop appointed Mr. Tucker his domestic chaplain; and the latter has told the writer of this article, that they frequently walked in the palace-gardens in the dark, generally conversing upon metaphysical and theological subjects.

Oftentimes the good bishop would be sunk in a profound reverie, in which he would continue for a considerable period, and then all at once break out with some singular remark. After one of these absences of mind, he suddenly asked Mr. Tucker, "whether he did not think it possible that whole communities of men might be seized with a fit of madness?"

The question was so odd, that the chaplain was silent, and thought the bishop's intellects a little disordered for the time. A greater share of experience and closer observation of mankind, especially during

during great political epochs, have, perhaps, given our divine reason to think there is more justness in the observation than he was at first inclined to suppose!

By the interest of this amiable and learned prelate, Mr. Tucker obtained a prebendal stall in the cathedral of Bristol; and on the death of the pious and ingenious Mr. Catcott, well known by his treatise on the Deluge, and a volume of excellent sermons, he became rector of St. Stephen. The inhabitants of that parish consist chiefly of merchants and tradesmen, a circumstance which greatly aided his natural inclination for commercial and political studies.

In 1745, he preached an excellent sermon before the governors of a very laudable institution, then first erected in the city of Bristol. In this discourse, the preacher took a course which has rarely been pursued: Instead of dwelling, as most have done, upon the benevolent tendency of these establishments, he considered them "as so many reformatories, or schools, erected for the revival and propagation of morality and religion, and as means which may conduce towards a national reformation in the common people."

After mentioning, briefly indeed, but pointedly, the general depravity of the lower ranks, he says—
 " Nay, and when their extravagancies have run to that height as to call for *corporal punishment*, and the censure of the magistrate, there are no hopes or prospect of *reclaiming* them by that means. For they have made it a sort of point of honour to out-brave the punishment—as for the shame and infamy attending it, these things make *now* but little impression on them: so that we have nothing left of discipline in our places of chastisement and confinement, but their names. For our *houses* of correction, as they are called, are so far from answering the original ends of their institution, that they *corrupt* more than *correct*, and *harden* rather than *reform*; so as to make the *young* offender, if sent there, to be threefold more the child of hell than he was before."

This

This strong censure, perhaps, is full as applicable to the objects upon which it was originally made now, as it was above half a century back.

When the famous bill was brought into the house of commons for the naturalization of the Jews, Mr. Tucker, considering the subject with an enlarged mind, took a decided part in favour of the measure, and was indeed its most able advocate.

The opponents of the bill, transported with an extraordinary zeal for the Christian religion, which they affected to think was in danger by this step, treated our divine with great rudeness and virulence on the occasion. He was not only severely attacked in pamphlets, newspapers, and magazines; but the pious people of Bristol, who had, perhaps, hardened their hearts into intolerance by a traffic in human flesh, burnt his effigy dressed in canonicals, together with his letters on behalf of naturalization!

In 1753, he published an able pamphlet on the "Turkey Trade," in which he demonstrates the evils that result to trade in general from chartered companies.

At this period, Lord Clare (afterwards Earl Nugent) was returned to Parliament for Bristol, which honour he obtained chiefly through the strenuous exertions of Mr. Tucker, whose influence in his large and wealthy parish was almost decisive on such an occasion. In return for this favour the Earl procured for him the Deanery of Gloucester, in 1758, at which time he took his degree of doctor in divinity.

So great was his reputation for commercial knowledge, which to a nation situated like our's is of the first importance, that Dr. Thomas Hayter, afterwards Bishop of London, who was then tutor to his present majesty, applied to Dr. Tucker to draw up a dissertation on this subject for the perusal of his royal pupil. It was accordingly done, and gave great satisfaction. This work, under the title of "The Elements of Commerce," was printed in quarto, but never published.

Dr.

Dr. Warburton, however, who after having been member of the same chapter with the Dean, at Bristol, became Bishop of Gloucester, thought very differently from the rest of mankind, in respect to his talents, and favourite pursuits; and said once, in his coarse manner, that "his Dean's trade was religion, and religion his trade."

But in refutation of this charge, we might produce the Dean's various publications on moral and religious subjects, which shew him to be not only deeply versed in theology, but also, what is far better, a man of genuine philanthropy.

In the year 1771, when a strong attempt was made to procure an abolition of subscription to the 39 articles, Dr. Tucker came forward as an able and moderate advocate of the church of England. Though he resisted with strong and clear arguments the claims of the petitioners on that occasion, he yet candidly admitted that some reformation of the liturgy was wanted, and instanced particularly the Athanasian Creed, which he considered as too scholastic and refined for a popular confession of faith, and as the Nicene Creed is admitted, he further deemed the other to be superfluous.

About this time he published "Directions for Travellers," in which he lays down excellent rules, by which gentlemen who visit foreign countries may not only improve their own minds, but turn their observations to the benefit of their native country.

That excellent prelate, Archbishop Secker, was highly pleased with this useful performance, and sent the author some observations which he had made in the course of his perusal of it. The public would be much gratified by a new edition of these "Directions," with the Archbishop's observations annexed.

In 1772, the Dean printed a small volume of sermons, in which he explains the doctrines of *election* and *justification*, upon scriptural grounds, in opposition to what has been called the *evangelical system of faith*. At that time a very violent dispute was carried on between the Calvinistic and the Arminian

Metho-

Methodists, the former headed by Messrs. Toplady and Hill, and the latter by the Messrs. Wesleys and Fletcher.

The year following he published "Letters to the Rev. Dr. Kippis, wherein the claim of the church of England to an authority in matters of faith, and to a power of decreeing rites and ceremonies, is discussed and ascertained," &c. 8vo.

The dispute between Great Britain and her colonies in North America, began now to assume a very serious and portentous aspect, and nothing less than an open rupture was expected, in consequence of the obstinacy of the one, and the firmness of the other.

The Dean was an attentive observer of this contest. He examined the affair with a very different eye from that of a party-man, or an interested merchant, and he discovered, as he conceived, that both sides would be better off by an absolute separation. The more he thought on this subject, the more he was persuaded that extensive colonies were an evil, rather than a benefit to any commercial nation.

On this principle, therefore, he published his "Thought upon the Dispute between the Mother Country and America." He demonstrated that the latter could not be conquered, and that if it could, the purchase would be dearly bought. He warned this country against commencing a war with the colonies, and advised that they should be left to themselves, an event which would be productive of infinite good to Great Britain.

This position and advice startled all parties, as well those who were advocates for American freedom, as those who were zealots for coercive measures and taxation. By both the Dean was considered as a sort of madman, who had rambled out of the proper line of his profession to commence political quack; and it is remarkable that those two great men, Dr. Johnson and Edmund Burke, treated the Doctor's hypothesis with great contempt, though the one was the champion of, and the other an enemy to, taxation.

Mr.

Mr. Burke's language in the House of Commons respecting the Dean's proposal was, indeed, exceeding harsh and illiberal. In his famous speech on American taxation, April 13th, 1774, this famous orator called him "the advocate of the court faction," and I suppose," he adds, "that his earnest labours in this vineyard will raise him to a bishoprick." The Dean was actually roused into resentment on this occasion, and he accordingly published a letter to Mr. Burke, in which he not only vindicates the purity of his own principles, but retorts upon his adversary in very forcible and manly terms.

The ground of Mr. Burke's enmity to the Dean, was the latter's strenuous opposition to his being admitted to represent Bristol in parliament. Dr. Tucker had a high opinion of Lord Nugent's parliamentary conduct and abilities, added to which, he owed him much on the score of gratitude. He therefore considered himself as bound to support his interest in Bristol, with all the power he possessed. This excited Mr. Burke's dislike to the Dean of Gloucester, and sharpened his wit on the subject of his political opinions.

Our author, however, went on vindicating and enforcing his favourite system, in spite of all the obloquy with which it was treated both in the senate and from the press. As the war proceeded, many intelligent persons began to see more truth and reason in his sentiments, and time has at last demonstrated that he was completely in the right. Towards the close of that unhappy contest, the Dean assumed the appellation of CASSANDRA, alluding to the ill success with which his warnings had been attended. This signature is found at the end of those hints and short essays which he frequently printed in the newspapers, and which it were to be wished some person would collect and preserve, lest they should sink into unmerited oblivion.

When the terrors of an invasion were very prevalent, in 1779, the Dean circulated, in a variety of periodical publications, some of the most sensible
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observations that were ever made on the subject, in order to quiet the fears of the people. He states at length, and with great accuracy, the numerous difficulties that must attend the attempt to invade this country, and the still greater ones that must be encountered by the invaders after their landing. Those observations have been reprinted, with good effect, in the course of the present war.

In 1781, the Dean published, what he had printed long before, "A Treatise on Civil Government," in which his principal design is to counteract the doctrines of the celebrated Mr. Locke and his followers. The book made a considerable noise, and was very sharply attacked by several able writers on the democratic side of the question, particularly by Dr. Towers.

The year following he closed his political career with a pamphlet entitled "*Cui Bono?*" in which he balances the profit and loss of each of the belligerent powers, and recapitulates all his former positions on the subject of war and colonial possessions.

His publications since that period have consisted of some tracts on the commercial regulations of Ireland, on the exportation of woollens, and on the iron trade.

In 1777, he published seventeen practical sermons, in one volume, octavo. In the year 1778, one of his parishioners, Miss Pelloquin, a maiden lady of large fortune and most exemplary piety, bequeathed to the Dean her dwelling-house in Queen-Square, Bristol, with a very handsome legacy, as a testimony of her great esteem for his worth and talents.

It should be recorded to his praise; that though enjoying but very moderate preferment (for to a man of no paternal estate, or other ecclesiastical dignity, the Deanry of Gloucester is no very advantageous situation), he has, notwithstanding, been a liberal benefactor to several public institutions, and a distinguished patron of merit.

The celebrated John Henderson, of Pembroke college, Oxford, was sent to the university and supported there at the Dean's expence, when he had no means whatever of gratifying his ardent desire for study.

We shall mention another instance of generosity in this place, which reflects the greatest honour upon the Dean. About the year 1790, he thought of resigning his rectory in Bristol, and without communicating his design to any other person, he applied to the Chancellor, in whose gift it is, for leave to quit it in favour of his curate, a most deserving man, with a large family.

His Lordship was willing enough, that he should give up the living, but he refused him the liberty of nominating his successor. On this the Dean resolved to hold the living himself, till he could find a fit opportunity to succeed in his object. After weighing the matter more deliberately, he communicated his wish to his parishioners, and advised them to draw up a petition to the Chancellor in favour of the curate. — This was accordingly done, and signed by all of them, without any exception, either on the part of the dissenters or others.

The Chancellor being touched with this testimony of love between a clergyman and his people, yielded at last to the application; in consequence of which the Dean cheerfully resigned the living to a successor well qualified to tread in his steps.

Since that time, he has resided chiefly at Gloucester*, viewing his approaching dissolution, which in the course of nature cannot be far distant, with the placid mind of a Christian, conscious of having done his duty both to GOD and MAN.

Here follows a tolerably correct list of the Dean's works:

THEOLOGICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL.

1. A Sermon, preached before the governors of the infirmary of Bristol, 1745.
2. Letters in Behalf of the Naturalization of the Jews.
3. Apology for the Church of England, 1772.
4. Six Sermons, 12mo. 1773.
5. Letter to Dr. Kippis, on his Vindication of the Protestant dissenting Ministers.
6. Two Sermons and Four Tracts.

† He married a Mrs. Crowe, of that city, in 1781.

7. View of the Difficulties of the Trinitarian, Arian, and Socinian Systems, and Seventeen Sermons, 1777.

POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL.

8. A pamphlet on the Turkey Trade.
 9. A brief View of the Advantages and Disadvantages which attend a Trade with France.
 10. Reflections on the Expediency of naturalizing foreign Protestants, and a Letter to a Friend on the same Subject.
 11. The Pleas and Arguments of the Mother Country and the Colonies stated.
 12. A Letter to Mr. Burke.
 13. Quere, whether a Connection with, or Separation from America, would be for national Advantage?
 14. Answers to Objections against the Separation from America.
 15. A Treatise on Civil Government.
 16. *Cui Bono?*
 17. Four Letters on national Subjects.
 18. Sequel to Sir William Jones on Government.
 19. On the Dispute between Great Britain and Ireland.
 20. Several Papers under the signature of Cassandra, &c. on the difficulties attendant on an invasion.
 21. A Treatise on Commerce. (Mr. Coxe, in his Life of Sir Robert Walpole, says that this was printed, but never published.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

22. Directions for Travellers.
 23. Cautions against the Use of Spirituous Liquors.
 24. A Tract against the Use of Cock-fighting, &c.

IV.

ADMIRAL

ADMIRAL LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN.

WHATEVER may be thought of the origin of the present war, or the principles upon which it has been conducted; whatever humiliating ideas may, on some grounds, prevail in the minds of Englishmen while they are reviewing the history of this extraordinary and eventual contest;—there can still be but one opinion respecting the conduct of our naval commanders, in general: and every British heart must glow with rapture at the consideration, that the honour of the national flag, so far from being tarnished in a single instance, has received greater lustre than ever distinguished it at any former period.

Among the eminent names whom the pen of the historian will have to dwell upon with peculiar satisfaction, when engaged in recording the naval events of the present war, that of Adam Lord DUNCAN will be proudly conspicuous.

This distinguished veteran was born at Dundee, in Scotland, July 1st, 1731, and was the younger son of a very ancient and reputable family, which has for a long series of years held the lordship of Lundie in the shire of Perth. The family estate, the rental of which is about 500*l.* a-year, came to Lord Duncan about two years ago, in consequence of the death of his elder brother, Colonel Duncan.

The younger branches, even of a respectable family, have generally to force their way in life by their own merits and exertions. Lord Duncan accordingly owed but little to his relations. He was very early sent to sea, a profession which costs but a trifle in the outset, and is generally attended with but small expence after the young adventurer is thus disposed of. Much is not known of the admiral's early services; but we are warranted in conjecturing that they must have been meritorious, by his attaining to the rank of post-captain, February 25th, 1761, at which time he was appointed to the command of the Valiant.

—About this period, he was honoured with the friendship of that gallant officer of the old school, Lord Keppel, and was with him at the taking of the Havannah; and when Keppel was appointed to a flag, he choose Duncan to be his Captain.

He was also a member of the court-martial which sat upon the trial of that distinguished veteran; and continued attached to him by the strongest ties of intimacy and friendship, till his death.

On September 24th, 1787, he was made a rear-admiral; in 1793, he was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral; and in 1799, he became admiral of the blue.

Hitherto he had moved on in his profession regularly, but with little notice, for it had not been his lot to get employed on any service that was likely to bring him forward to the public view.

His appointment, at last, to that station, in which he has all at once obtained laurels equal to those which adorn the brows of men who have been more extensively employed, seems to have been owing to his relationship to Mr. Secretary Dundas, whose niece he married, and by whom he has several children.

This alliance procured for him an appointment which it was understood he was best fitted for, the north-sea station. Nor does it at all reflect upon his Lordship to say, that his circumstances stood in need of his being thus employed. With hardly any other fortune than his half-pay as an admiral, it was natural enough for him to be anxious to get engaged in active service, for the benefit of a wife and children, whom he loved. The scene of action which he chose was an arduous one. The severity of the winter season, in that sea, must also have been very trying to a man of his Lordship's time of life. Moreover he had to encounter with difficulties still more troublesome and painful to a British officer: we allude to the mutinous spirit which prevailed in his fleet, in common with the other naval squadrons in the Channel.

In the midst of all these unpleasant circumstances, his Lordship manifested a cool and steady mind.

He

He kept his station with such persevering ardour, in the most boisterous season of the year, that the enemy could not by any means effect their design of escaping from their ports. The indefatigable Admiral continued blockading them, either with the whole, or part of his squadron; till the summer of 1797, when the mutiny raged in his fleet in a most alarming manner. Even when he was left with only three ships, he still remained firm in his station off the Texel, and succeeded in keeping the Dutch ships from proceeding to sea; a circumstance, in all probability, of as high consequence to the nation as his subsequent victory.

His behaviour at the time of the mutiny, will best be seen from the speech which he made to the crew of his own ship, on June 3d, 1797, and which, as a piece of artless and affecting oratory; cannot but be admired by the most fastidious taste. His men being assembled, the Admiral thus addressed them from the quarter deck:

" My lads—I once more call you together, with
 " a sorrowful heart, from what I have lately seen—
 " the disaffection of the fleets; I call it *disaffection*,
 " for the crews have *no grievances*. To be deserted
 " by my fleet, in the face of an enemy, is a disgrace
 " which I believe never before happened to a British
 " Admiral: nor could I have supposed it possible.
 " My greatest comfort under God is, that I have
 " been supported by the officers, seamen, and marines
 " of *this ship*; for which, with a heart overflowing
 " with gratitude, I request you to accept my sincere
 " thanks.

" I flatter myself much good may result from
 " your example, by bringing those deluded people
 " to a sense of the duty which they owe, not only
 " to their King and Country, but to themselves.
 " The British Navy has ever been the support of that
 " Liberty which has been handed down for us by our
 " ancestors, and which, I trust, we shall maintain
 " to the latest posterity; and that can only be done
 " by unanimity and obedience.

“ This ship’s company, and others who have distinguished themselves by their loyalty and good order, deserve to be, and doubtless *will be*, the favourites of a grateful country; they will also have from their inward feelings a comfort which must be lasting, and not like the fleeting and false confidence of those who have swerved from their duty!

“ It has often been my pride with you to look into the Texel, and see a foe which dreaded coming out to meet us.—My pride is *now* humbled indeed! —My feelings are not easily to be expressed!—Our cup has overflowed and made us wanton. The all-wise PROVIDENCE has given us this check as a warning, and I hope we shall improve by it. On Him, then, let us trust, where our *only* security can be found.

“ I find there are many good men among us; for my own part, I have had full confidence of all in this ship: and once more beg to express my approbation of your conduct.

“ May God, who has thus far conducted you, continue to do so; and may the British Navy, the glory and support of our country, be restored to its wonted splendour, and be not only the bulwark of Britain, but the terror of the world. But this can only be effected by a strict adherence to our duty and obedience: and let us pray that the Almighty God may keep us in the right way of thinking. God bless you all!”

The crew of the Venerable were so affected by this impressive address, that on retiring there was not a dry eye among them.

On the suppression of the mutiny, the Admiral resumed his station with his whole fleet off the coast of Holland, either to keep the Dutch squadron in the Texel, or to attack them if they should attempt to come out. It has since been discovered, that the object of the Batavian Republic, in conjunction with France, was to invade Ireland, where doubtless they would have been cordially welcomed by numerous
bodies

bodies of the disaffected. Hence it will be seen, that the object of watching and checking the motions of the Dutch Admiral was of the utmost consequence.

After a long and very vigilant attention to the important trust reposed in him, the English Admiral was necessitated to repair to Yarmouth-roads to refit. The Batavian commander seized this favourable interval, and proceeded to sea. That active officer, Capt. Trollope, however, was upon the look-out, and having discovered the enemy, immediately dispatched a vessel with the glad intelligence to Admiral Duncan, who lost not an instant of time, but pushed out at once, and in the morning the 11th of October, fell in with Capt. Trollope's squadron of observations, with the signal flying for an enemy to the leeward.

By a masterly manœuvre, the Admiral placed himself between them and the Texel, so as to prevent them from re-entering without risking an engagement. An action accordingly took place between Camperdown and Egmont, in nine fathoms water, and within five miles of the coast. The Admiral's own ship, in pursuance of a plan of naval evolution which he had long before determined to carry into effect, broke the enemy's line, and closely engaged the Dutch Admiral de Winter, who, after a most gallant defence, was obliged to strike. Eight ships were taken, two of which carried flags!

All circumstances considered—the time of the year, the force of the enemy, and the nearness to a dangerous shore—this action will be pronounced by every judge of nautical affairs, to be one of the most brilliant that graces our annals.

The nation was fully sensible of the merit and consequence of this glorious victory: politicians beheld in it the annihilation of the designs of our combined enemies; naval men admired the address and skill which were displayed by the English commander in his approaches to the attack; and the people at large were transported with admiration, joy, and gratitude.

The honours which were instantly conferred upon the VENERABLE Admiral, received the approbation of men of all parties. October 21st, 1797, he was created Lord Viscount Duncan of Camperdown, and Baron Duncan of Lundie in the shire of Perth. On his being introduced into the House of Peers, on November the 8th, the Lord Chancellor communicated to him the thanks of the House, and in his speech said: "He congratulated his Lordship upon his accession to the honour of a distinguished seat in that place, to which his very meritorious and unparalleled professional conduct had deservedly raised him; that conduct (the Chancellor added) was such as not only merited the thanks of their Lordships' House, but the gratitude and applause of the Country at large: it had been instrumental, under the auspices of Providence, in establishing the security of his Majesty's dominions, and frustrating the ambitious and destructive designs of the enemy."

In the last session of parliament, a pension of 2000*l.* *per annum* was granted his Lordship, for himself and the two next heirs of the peerage.

In person, Lord Duncan is of a manly, athletic form, six feet three inches high, erect and graceful, with a countenance that indicates great intelligence and benevolence.

His private character is that of a most affectionate relative, a steady friend, and, what crowns the whole with a lustre superior to all other qualities or distinctions, he is a man of great and unaffected piety.

The latter virtue may excite in some persons a smile of contempt: but the liberal-minded will be pleased to read that Lord Duncan feels it an honour to be a christian.

He encourages religion by his own practice; and the public observance of it has been always kept up where he has held the command.

When the victory was decided, which has immortalized his name, his Lordship ordered the crew of his ship to be called together, and at their head, upon his bended knees, in the presence of the Dutch Admiral,

Admiral, who was greatly affected with the scene, he solemnly and pathetically offered up praise to the GOD OF BATTLES!

Let it be added here, that his demeanour, when all eyes were upon him, in the cathedral of St. Paul's, on the day of general thanksgiving, was so humble, modest, and devout, as greatly to increase that admiration which his services had procured him.

In short Lord Duncan is one more instance of the truth of the assertion, that piety and courage are inseparably allied; and that the latter quality, without the former, loses its principal virtue.

DR. SAMUEL HORSLEY,

LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

OF all the right reverend members of the episcopal bench, no one has obtained more celebrity than this learned prelate.

We are well aware, that a Bishop who has so greatly distinguished himself in political, as well as theological, controversy, will be regarded by different men with very opposite sentiments. Our aim, however, has no exclusive reference to either of these objects; and therefore we shall study to give a faithful delineation of the character before us, without the slightest attention to the spirit of party, whether that party be of a religious or political complexion.

Dr. Samuel Horsley is the eldest of the three sons of the Rev. Mr. Horsley, formerly minister of St. Martin's in the Fields: The grandfather of the Bishop was bred a dissenting divine, but he afterwards thought proper to conform to the establishment.

His

His Lordship was born about the year 1737, and received the ground-work of his education at Westminster school, whence he was removed to the University of Cambridge.

He applied himself, while there, chiefly to the study of mathematics; and not content with carefully reading the writings of the acutest of the moderns in that line, he went back to the profoundest of the ancients, and made himself thoroughly master of their most intricate reasonings.

Having taken his degree of Master of Arts, he accepted an invitation to go to Oxford, as private tutor to the present Earl of Aylesford. From that University he received a degree of Doctor of Laws, and in 1769 printed at the Clarendon press, his edition of the Inclinations of Apollonius, a geometrical work of considerable value, though exceedingly abstruse. Previous to his time, mathematical learning had been in little repute at Oxford; but since that period it has grown into fashion there, so that this University can hardly be said to fall short of her sister, in that great branch of human knowlege.

Here our author first conceived the design of publishing a complete edition of the works of Sir Isaac Newton; to which end he began to collect the necessary materials.

On leaving the University, Dr. Horsley came to London, where he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society, of which he was also chosen Secretary in 1773. He continued to serve that office, with the greatest credit to himself, as well as benefit to the scientific world, till the resignation of the late President, Sir John Pringle, when finding that the *connoisseurs* and *virtuosi* were gaining ground, he retired.

Soon after his settling in the metropolis, Dr. Horsley was noticed by that observing and excellent prelate, Bishop Lowth, who invited him to become his domestic chaplain. It is somewhat remarkable, that at this time he was suspected of not being quite orthodox in his theological sentiments, and those who pre-

pretended to smell heresy in him; wondered at Bishop Lowth's taking him under his patronage. The only grounds for this suspicion, were his being a profound mathematician, and his close intimacy with Dr. Maty and other men of science, who were avowed Socinians.

In 1774, Bishop Lowth presented him to the rectories of St. Mary Newington and Albury, both in the county of Surrey; and in the course of the same year he married a Miss Botnam.

In 1776, he published proposals for a complete and elegant edition of the works of the immortal Newton, which appeared in 1779, in five volumes quarto, with an excellent dedication to the King in Latin.

It was expected that a large memoir respecting the Prince of Philosophers would have been prefixed to this edition; and considerable disappointment was of course experienced by the public, when nothing of this kind appeared. Certain it is, that the learned editor gave room for this expectation, and had actually made some progress in the life. He moreover had conversed with Dr. Johnson upon the subject, who advised him to write it in Latin, as best suited to the dignity of the character. This biographical *desideratum*, however, has not yet made its appearance; and we are apprehensive that it never will.

In 1778, when the controversy was on foot between Drs. Priestley, Price, and others, respecting materialism, and philosophical necessity, Dr. Horsley preached a sermon on Good Friday at St. Paul's Cathedral, which he afterwards published. In this ingenious discourse he reconciles, with much force of argument, the doctrine of divine providence with the free agency of man, and combats the necessarian hypothesis with great, and, in the opinion of his friends, complete success.

About this time he was appointed Archdeacon of St. Albans, by Bishop Lowth, who in 1782 presented him to the valuable living of South Weald in Essex.

In

In 1783 Dr. Priestley published his celebrated work the "History of the Corruptions of Christianity." It need hardly be mentioned, that the principal design of this work was to overthrow the catholic doctrine respecting Christ's divinity.

Great was the triumph manifested by the unitarian party on the publication of this elaborate history.—The outcry made by them on the occasion, naturally roused the attention of those who adhered to the Orthodox confession, and Dr. Horsley seized this opportunity of shewing, not only the soundness of his faith, but his abilities for the most intricate branches of theological controversy.

In the summer of this year, he delivered to the clergy of the Archdeaconry of St. Albans a charge, in which he expressly controverted the Socinian position—that the doctrine of the Trinity was not maintained by the Christian church in the first three centuries; and he not only gave a flat contradiction to Dr. Priestley's assertion on this point, but charged him with having taken, without acknowledgement, the whole of his argument from Zwicker and other eminent Socinians of the last century.

This discourse, at the request of his reverend auditory, was printed, with an appendix, explaining and confirming the positions which it contained.

Dr. Priestley, whose pen is that of a ready writer, was not to be daunted at meeting with so formidable an antagonist; on the contrary, he rushed at once into the battle, with the impetuosity of a man who seemed to place all his reputation, as a combatant, upon the event of this contest. He, of course, instantly replied to the Archdeacon, in a series of letters, which contained all his former assertions, expressed in a more confident tone than before. Dr. Horsley was aware of the advantage which the precipitancy of his opponent had given him, and, therefore, in his answer, which was also in the epistolary form, he noticed the frequent slips in Greek quotation, and reference, which the Doctor had made; and, with great adroitness, left it to the reader to judge,

judge, whether so hasty and incautious an historian was to be depended upon in a matter of such importance.

But he did not merely expose the Doctor's mistakes. He followed up the attack by numerous proofs in behalf of the common belief, drawn from the early fathers of the church and the purest ecclesiastical historians. The display of reading and acute research in these letters is wonderful. The style also is admirable; and though at times it assumes a lofty manner, yet the reader of taste finds himself charmed with the elegance of the language, and the closeness of the reasoning.

Dr. Priestley continued the combat, by another series of letters, to which the Archdeacon again replied. The controversy here closed on the part of the latter, who signified that it was an endless task to contend upon an exhausted topic, with one who was never disposed to cease disputing till he had obtained the last word. In 1789 Dr. Horsley collected these tracts and printed them in one volume octavo, with some additions, particularly a sermon on the incarnation, preached at Newington, on Christmas-day, 1785, and which having a material relation to the controversy in question, he thought proper to insert in this collection.

While this dispute was going on, our learned divine was engaged in another, which made nearly as much noise as the first, at least in the scientific world. When Sir Joseph Banks came in as president of the Royal Society, on the resignation of Sir John Pringle, the mathematical and philosophical members of the Newtonian school were disgusted at the extraordinary preference which was shewn to subjects, as they conceived, of an inferior nature to those which ought in their opinion to engage the first learned society in the world. It has been said, that cabals were formed by those members of the old stamp against the president and his friends; but of this no proof was ever brought forward.

In

In 1784 the latter ventured upon a step which could not fail to fan the smothering flame into a blaze. —The council thought proper to dismiss the learned Doctor Hutton from the office of Latin secretary for foreign correspondence, upon the very frivolous pretence, that it was improper such a post should be filled by a person who did not reside in the metropolis. The scientific members took fire at this treatment of one of the ablest and most respectable of their body. Accordingly, in several meetings of the society, attempts were made to lessen the influence of the president,† and to reinstate Dr. Hutton in his place, but without success. In this contest between philosophy and the *virtuosi*, Dr. Horsley made the most conspicuous figure. Finding, however, that his labours and those of his learned associates were in vain, he forsook (to express it in his own forcible language) “that temple, where philosophy once reigned, “and where NEWTON presided as her officiating “minister.”

In 1786 Dr. Horsley obtained, without either solicitation or even expectancy, a prebend in the cathedral church of Gloucester. His friend on this occasion was Lord Thurlow; then Chancellor; who, without being personally known to Dr. H. or receiving any application on his behalf, resisted every request that was made for this valuable preferment, and bestowed it upon the man whom he justly considered as having merited it the most of any divine in this age.

During the year following, the Doctor preached an ordination sermon in the cathedral of Gloucester, in which he maintained with great strength this position—that on the cessation of miraculous gifts, human learning is substituted by divine appointment, as an essential qualification for the christian ministry.—At the command of the venerable prelate before whom it was delivered (Doctor Samuel Halifax) this ingenious discourse was soon after printed; and excited considerable notice, and some controversy.

Next

† Sir Joseph was accused, in an able pamphlet of that day, of taking very improper means to obtain the admission or rejection of Candidates.

Next year Dr. Horsley was elevated to the episcopal bench, on the translation of Dr. Smallwell from the see of St. David to that of Oxford. Lord Thurlow, on this occasion, was again his steady and unsolicited patron; and it is well known that he made it a point to bring in his friend, in opposition to candidates who were backed by all the force of ministerial influence.

Soon after his admission to the House of Lords, Dr. Horsley had an opportunity of displaying his eloquence and learning, which he did to great advantage, on Earl Stanhope's motion for a revision and reform of the canons of the church. His speech on this occasion afforded uncommon pleasure to the house; and, what was rather remarkable, drew from the noble Earl just mentioned a very liberal encomium.

On the great struggle made by the protestant dissenters in 1790, to obtain a repeal of the Corporation and Test acts, a pamphlet appeared, entitled, "a Review of the Case of the Protestant Dissenters," which was written with such boldness and elegance on the High Church side, that, though anonymous, all parties concurred in attributing it to the Bishop of St. David's; nor in fact were they wrong in their conjecture.

The year following, he made a conspicuous figure in consequence of his primary charge to the clergy of his diocese; in this he maintained the old-fashioned doctrine of *justification by faith alone*, and pressed it home upon his hearers, that the too common practice of preaching mere *morality* was destructive of vital religion.

This charge, of a complexion so very different from what had been usually delivered in cathedral churches, attracted considerable notice. Those who were attached to the Calvinistic principles, or, as they are commonly called, Evangelical Christians, were enraptured with the sentiments conveyed in this discourse. Others, on the contrary, conceived that the Bishop had mistaken the doctrine of the gospel,

gospel, on the subject of justification; while the Unitarians were extremely irritated at the harsh terms in which his Lordship had mentioned their sect and creed in his charge. Several replies were accordingly published to it; but the learned prelate seemed to consider himself superior to the adversaries who wished to provoke him again into controversy.

His conduct in the see of St. David's is highly praiseworthy. Of all the bishoprics, no one exhibited more poverty, or more ignorance, on the part of the clergy, than this. Many of the curacies, when his lordship entered upon the government of this extensive diocese, did not exceed ten pounds *per annum*, and some of the churches were actually served for five! It may easily be concluded what sort of divines a great part of these poor ministers were, under such circumstances. What was still worse, the multitude of candidates for orders increased yearly, so that Wales poured her superfluous clergy into England, to the disgrace of the cloth, and the real injury of such as were regularly bred. The writer of this has no inclination to sport himself at the expence of any body of men; but he could entertain the reader with many whimsical anecdotes respecting the learning and ingenuity of the Welch clergy. A reform was, therefore, necessary, but to accomplish it required a strong and persevering mind.

Our indefatigable prelate was not to be daunted by any obstacles. He obtained, with the greatest possible dispatch, an accurate and minute state of his diocese. He then gave notice to the beneficed clergy, who did not reside, that they would be compelled to residence, or to allow their curates a more liberal salary. By this means, he remedied that shameful abuse, of one man's serving several churches on the same day; limiting a curate to two only, and those within a moderate distance from each other.

Having regulated the condition of the clergy, he proceeded to a stricter course, with respect to candidates for holy orders, admitting none without personally examining them himself, and looking very narrowly into the titles which they produced.

With

With all this vigilance, his Lordship acted to them as a tender father, encouraging them to visit him during his stay in the country, which was usually for several months in the year, assisting them with advice, and administering to their temporal necessities with a liberal and paternal hand.

In his progress through the diocese he frequently preached in the parish churches, especially on the days when the sacrament was administered, and bestowed considerable largesses upon the poor.

He kept a most hospitable table at his episcopal palace, at Aberguilly, near Caermarthen, to which the neighbouring gentry and clergy were always welcome. In short, he was a blessing to that poor people; and they followed him with grateful hearts, and parted from him with infinite reluctance. This is not an ideal picture: it is a true but imperfect sketch of actual life; and such as the feeble painter had opportunities of seeing more than once.

On January 30th, 1793, the bishop of St. David's was appointed to preach before the House of Lords, and as the recent murder of the King of France was the general topic of conversation and pity, the abbey was greatly crowded. That discourse is in print; and whatever may be thought of the notions on government, which distinguish it, there can be but one opinion concerning its very beautiful and pathetic peroration. When published, the bishop appended to his sermon a long vindication of the character of the character of Calvin, from the charge of being a friend to rebellion and regicide.

The following year he was translated, on the death of Bishop Pearce, from St. David's to Rochester, on which occasion he resigned all his other church preferments.

When he entered upon his office as Dean of Westminster, he found many things in the condition of that church which stood in great need of reformation; and with his usual activity, he instantly set about the work. In particular, the salaries of the minor-canon and officers were extremely low, and by no means

means proportionate. With a most commendable spirit of liberality, therefore, he obtained an instant advance, and then began to regulate the conduct and duty of the persons whom he had so materially assisted. Had he, on the contrary, set about a more exact discipline, without attending to the necessities of these men, they would, perhaps, have justly considered him as a severe task-master, and murmured at his regulations. By this mode of conduct, he gained their esteem and gratitude; and it may safely be said, that no man ever filled that station with such popularity as the present dean.

In the career of politics, his popularity, perhaps, is not quite so great. The zeal which he displays in the agitation of public measures, and the promptness with which he expresses his sentiments on the side of the established order of things, civil and religious, have procured him many enemies. Without endeavouring to extenuate any thing in his conduct that is reprehensible, let it be permitted for us to say, that his language has been often greatly misrepresented; and been made by his adversaries to express a meaning which the right reverend prelate holds in abhorrence. He has been too apt to express his sentiments in abstract propositions, which may be made, by artful men, to signify what never entered into his lordship's mind. Were we to act so generously, as to put the best construction upon his observations, and that certainly ought to be done, unless his own explanation proved decisive, in all probability, we should find here less occasion for censure, and more for commendation.

But to leave his political reputation to its fate. In 1796, he printed, without his name, a most profound and elegant dissertation on "the Latin and Greek Prosodies," dedicated to Lord Thurlow. In this learned performance he shews an uncommon depth of penetration into, and acquaintance with, the nature and construction of the ancient languages; and approves himself a most powerful, though perhaps not an invincible advocate for the use of the Greek accents.

We

We understand that this zealous and active prelate is now deeply engaged in a work upon the prophecies of the Old and New Testament; and from his known powers, as a profound thinker and calculator, there can be no doubt entertained of the value of his performance, should he, as it is to be hoped he will, favour the world with the fruits of his researches.

Besides the works already mentioned, bishop Horsley is the author of some ingenious papers on mathematical subjects, various sermons on public occasions, and several episcopal charges.

He has been twice married. By his first lady he had two children; one only of whom is living, who is at present at Christ-church college, Oxford.

○.

JUDGE BULLER.

SIR FRANCIS BULLER is the eldest son of the late John Buller, Esq. of Morval, in the county of Cornwall. The extensive parliamentary interest of his family is well known; this, joined to his own abilities, could not fail to raise him, early in life, to an eminent rank in his profession.

After being educated at Winchester school, he was called to the bar in the year 1763, and brought into parliament soon after. This with a lawyer is generally a prelude to a silk gown, but it was not immediately obtained. His professional *debut* did not promise much eminence, for he commenced his career as a special pleader, having studied the practical part of this dull but necessary branch of legal science under the present Judge Ashhurst, and like his precursor he was always ranked among the most eminent in that particular line. This character, accordingly, soon brought him into great repute as a common-law draughtsman;

draughtsman; and Erskine, after having laid by his sword, first brandished a pen at his desk.

His practice at the bar was, at the same time, very considerable.

In 1772, Mr. Buller published "An Introduction to the Law of *Nisi Prius*," which is a *noli me tangere* of its kind, and will long continue to enjoy a high degree of estimation; indeed, in every thing that did not require an appeal to the passions, he shewed himself a master: then only he failed! His eloquence, as a counsel, was neither pleasing nor powerful, but on the other hand, few judges deliver themselves with more propriety than him; his language being dignified, and his manner, perhaps, somewhat too authoritative. This affords a proof that the oratory suited for the bar is essentially different from that adapted for the bench.

The *borough* interest of his family, added to a matrimonial alliance with that of the late Earl Bathurst, at length procured him a silk gown, the place of a Welch judge, and even elevated him to the coif, while yet a very young man. He was accordingly called to the degree of serjeant at law, on being appointed one of the justices of the court of King's Bench.

In this capacity his abilities had full play, as he possesses great quickness of perception, readily foresees the consequences of facts, and anticipates the drift of an argument at the first glance; but, like the great lawyer whom he has been ambitious of copying, he is sometimes rather too hasty in drawing his conclusions.

As soon as he assumed the ermine, he instantly attracted the particular attention of Lord Mansfield, and although the youngest judge that was ever promoted to the bench, yet his opinion had always more influence with the Chief Justice than that of any of his colleagues.

Our judge has also at times been accused of somewhat bordering on petulance of disposition, which has led him into rather unpleasant altercations. An instance

instance of this occurred at the famous trial of the Dean of St. Asaph, when, after pushing his opposition to his quondam pupil, Mr. Erskine, to threats and defiance, he at length suffered him to set his authority at nought, and even allowed him to proceed in the interrogatories the judge had so strenuously opposed.

When Lord Mansfield was about to retire, he exerted the remains of his once-powerful interest to procure the nomination of Buller to succeed him, and is even said to have retained his post, on this very account, some time after he had been disenabled by his infirmities from performing its duties.

Some time since Sir Francis exhibited a wish to retire from the King's Bench, and proposed an exchange for a seat in the Common Pleas, but difficulties then occurred, which deferred the accomplishment of his wishes. He was then second on the Bench, and had he removed during the life of Judge Gould, he must have sat as third only in the Common Pleas; but on the death of that truly venerable and honest man, he had his wish gratified, by a removal from the supposed object of his displeasure.

He was lately placed at the head of the Special Commission for trying the state prisoners at Maidstone, and he must be allowed by all candid men to have conducted himself with great impartiality. A circumstance happened on this occasion which gave the judge an opportunity to shew his impartiality to great advantage; we mean the discovery of the letter written by the Rev. Mr. Young, son of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture; of which we shall not say a single word, as he is now under prosecution by the Attorney General.

The compliments paid by the judge to Mr. Fox, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Suffolk; and other noblemen and Gentlemen in Opposition, have drawn down upon his head the abuse of some of the Ministerial papers; and by a strange fatality, the great lawyer, formerly suspected of leaning towards despotism, is considered by them as at present too little attached to prerogative.

Sir

Sir Francis resides at his country-seat in a manner worthy the imitation of his brethren of the long robe. Unbending from the restraint of the coif, he lives without ostentation; but his table is a hospitable one, and he pays every attention to his guests.—Gay, facetious, liberal in his conversation and opinions, he despises the petty prejudices of the day, and proves that he has considered mankind, rather in the character of a philosopher than a lawyer.

Much to his honour he has improved great portions of the waste land in his neighbourhood, and when these are brought into a state of cultivation, he builds cottages, and portions them out into little farms, at easy rents.

Thus, while he is benefiting the present age, he is also creating a noble fortune for his posterity!

JOHN WOLCOTT, M.D.

THIS gentleman, better known by his poetical appellation of *Peter Pindar*, is a native of that part of Devonshire which has been called the Garden of England. He was educated, we believe, at Kingsbridge, near which he was born. The schoolmaster of that town, an exceeding good scholar, and a man of most amiable manners, was a quaker.

The uncle of our bard being a single man, and established at Fowey, in Cornwall, as an Apothecary, took his nephew, when young, with a view to his succeeding him in his business. Here he acquired a tolerable share of medical knowledge; and was in great esteem with his kinsman, and the neighbourhood. At his leisure hours he cultivated his mind by the perusal of the best modern writers; and improved himself considerably in the art of drawing, to which he shewed an early propensity.

On

On the appointment of Sir William Trelawney to be Governor of Jamaica, about the year 1769, Mr. Wolcott felt a strong inclination to accompany him; especially as that gentleman was a distant relation of his own, and a great friend to the family. He accordingly pressed his uncle, not only to give his consent to the project, but also to solicit the favour from Sir William.

The old gentleman was at first extremely concerned at this turn in his nephew's mind. It was a complete overthrow of his favourite scheme respecting him, and it was moreover depriving himself of a most useful assistant. Remonstrances, however, were vain; and therefore, with the greatest good nature, he waked upon the Governor, and obtained the favour that the young adventurer should make one in his suite.

In the voyage the ship touched at Madeira, where Peter, enchanted with the beauties which nature so luxuriantly exhibits in that island, wrote some exquisite sonnets. On his arrival at Jamaica, he commenced surgeon, with which he blended the practice of physic, and was actually nominated Physician General to the island. A circumstance however occurred that diverted him for some time from his medical career, and threw him into the arms of a profession, for which few men were ever less qualified.

The incumbent of the most valuable living in Jamaica happened to pay the last tribute to nature not long after the Doctor settled there. Whether his practice had not been sufficiently lucrative, or what other motive possessed him, we know not, but certain it is, he looked upon the vacant rectory with a wishful eye. As there was no clergyman at hand to supply the place of the deceased, the physician of the body commenced physician of the soul, and actually officiated for a considerable time in this capacity, reading the prayers of the church of England, and preaching occasionally.

Fearing, at length, that he should be superseded, by a regular minister properly instituted to the living

ing, the Doctor set out for England, carrying with him strong letters of commendation to the Bishop of London, that he might not only be ordained but also be appointed to the church which he had served.

But though his application was backed pretty strongly by some very considerable friends in England, the Bishop refused to admit him, on the ground, we believe, of his having presumed to perform the ministerial duties without being properly licensed there-to.

In consequence of this disappointment, the Doctor declined revisiting his patients and parishioners in the West Indies; but having previously obtained the degree of M.D. from one of the Scotch universities, he went down to the place of his former residence, and after living there some time, removed to Truro, where he practised for several years as a physician, with great credit and success. About this time his uncle died, and left him nearly two thousand pounds.

The doctor's satirical vein shewed itself on various occasions in Cornwall; particularly in some humorous jokes, which he played off upon the late Mr. Rosewarne, of Truro, and other gentlemen of the neighbourhood. He was also engaged in some troublesome and expensive lawsuits; one of which was with the corporation of Truro, relative to their right of putting upon him a parish apprentice. In consequence of these disputes, he found that part of the world disagreeable, and therefore resolved to quit it for a sphere more congenial to his talents and disposition.

During his residence in this county, the Doctor had an opportunity of bringing forward to the world an eminent natural genius, who otherwise might have been buried in total oblivion, or at the most have been a sign-painter in his native country. The person we allude to was JOHN OPIE, whose rude drawings in common chalk, especially likenesses, our Doctor viewed with some curiosity and admiration in his rides through the village of St. Anne, where

where Opie was a parish apprentice to one Wheeler, a house carpenter.

These drawings were so superior to what could be expected in such a place, and from such a person, that the physician was induced to become his instructor and his patron. He accordingly furnished him with materials; and gave him lessons, by which he profited in a manner that surprised and delighted the benevolent tutor. Having made a rapid progress, Opie went to Exeter, where he acquired some knowledge of oil painting. From that city he removed to London, and under Sir Joshua Reynolds became one of the most eminent artists of the age.

We are sorry to remark, however, that a violent misunderstanding took place during some years between the doctor and his pupil, and from what we can learn, the cause originated in the forgetfulness with which the latter affected to treat his obligations to the former.

Of the Doctor's poetical productions while he was engaged in the practice of physic, we have seen only one specimen; but that is an excellent one, and we trust our readers will be pleased with us for inserting it in this place.

In the year 1776, when Mr. Polwhele, well-known by his various publications, was at Truro-school, he was given to him for an evening exercise, to be translated into English, the following beautiful Latin Epigram on sleep:

*Somne levis, quamquam certissima mortis imago,
Consortem cupio te tamen esse tori:
Alma quies, optata veni; nam, sic, sine vita
Vivere, quam saepe est; sic, sine, morte, mori.*

In this epigram the doctor was requested to give a translation, which he produced in a few minutes as follows:

*Come, gentle sleep, attend thy vot'ry's prayer,
And tho' death's image to my couch repair,
How sweet, thus lifeless, yet with life to lie,
Thus, without dying, O how sweet to die!*

Our author's first literary production was an '*Epistle to the Reviewers*,' 4to. 1782, a truly laughable piece of satire, and certainly discharged against fair game. His next performance was '*Lyrical Odes to the Royal Academicians*,' 1785, in which is a happy mixture of wit, taste, and elegance, but at the same time it must be allowed, that a want of candour distinguishes the criticisms, and particularly with respect to the paintings of Mr. West.

In the year following, he published another set of Odes to the Members of the Royal Academy, bearing the same characteristics. About the same time he produced a performance of more originality and boldness. This was the *Loufiad*, a mock heroic poem, abounding in wit, humour, and strength.

The foundation on which our Satyrist erected this lively piece, was this:—His Majesty one evening at supper observed a human hair upon his plate, among some green peas. This offensive object occasioned a decree to be issued forth, that all the cooks, scullions &c. in the royal kitchen, should have their heads shaved. Great murmurings were excited by this mandate; but the law, like that of the Medes and Persians, was irrevocable.

On this incident, Peter formed his exquisite production; only changing the hair, by virtue of the *licentia poetica*, to a living animal.

His next production was an epistle to James Boswell, Esq. the self-sufficient attendant upon Dr. Johnson to the Hebrides. This was followed by "*Bozzi and Prozzi*," in which the folly of titling rattle biographers is exposed in the happiest manner.

The greatest success attended our author's publications. Never did any satyrist display such various excellence. Those who disapproved his sentiments and were offended at his freedom and want of respect for authority, could not read his poems with unmoved muscles. To give a catalogue of his numerous writings would be needless. There can be no occasion to specify at length what is universally known.

known and as universally admired. Though our author has shone most conspicuously as a satyrift, and here indeed his splendour has been of an extraordinary brilliancy, yet the reader of his sonnets will sometimes be disposed to regret his having devoted so much of his time and genius to temporary and personal subjects.

The admirers of poetical elegance may laugh at our bard's pleasant tales and whimsical descriptions; but they will feel a more exquisite sensation on reading the tender and sentimental effusions of his pen.

The Doctor, we understand, lately superintended a new edition of Pilkington's dictionary of Painters, to which he made some additions. Before we conclude, it may not be amiss to remark, that in his conversation our Satyrift does not exhibit either that facetiousness or acerbity which are so eminently displayed in his works.

Neither ought we to finish this article without observing, that Messrs. Robinsons, Golding, and Walker, agreed, in 1795, to pay Dr. W. an annuity of 240*l.* per annum, for the copy-right of his works. Unfortunately, owing to some obscurity in drawing up the agreement, it has been contended by one party, that it implies only those of the Poet *already* published, while the others wish to include all that may hereafter be given to the world, by the facetious Peter.

We are sorry to add, that an action at common law, has been succeeded by a chancery suit; and without entering into the merits of a question, on which some future Chancellor may decide, in the course of the *nineteenth century*, we most cordially recommend an amicable adjustment, and immediate compromise to all parties. What a pity, that the rapacious harpies of the law should be permitted to swallow up the patrimony of the Muses!

Our poet, we believe, once more practises as a physician. Lately recovered from an *asthma*, he has acquired an intimate acquaintance with the theory of that disease, and is himself a living instance, that
with

with skilful management it is not fatal, even in its last and worst stages. He has also minutely investigated the structure of that delicate organ, the human ear.

This is a species of knowledge neither to be obtained on the summit of Parnassus, nor drawn from the fountain Hippocrene; but there is a certain universality in genius, which, indeed, constitutes one of its chief characteristics.

W.

JOHN MOORE, D. D.

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,

Primate of all England.

SOME of the ablest and best prelates of whom the Church of England has to boast, originally arose from very humble situations in society. The catalogue of her primates, in particular, almost entirely consists of persons of lowly extraction. Cranmer, Parker, Grindal, and Whitgift, the great pillars of the church establishment, after the separation from the papal yoke, were all of a mean descent; if, as in the vulgar phraseology of common life, poverty and meanness be synonymous.

Archbishop Abbot was educated and maintained by public charity.

Laud's father was a weaver; so was Tillotson's; and none of them appear to have been in circumstances to provide for his son.

Potter was a servitor in his college; and both Herring and Secker were more indebted to good fortune, and lucky-hits in life, than to family connexions, for their elevation to the episcopal bench.

Nor

Nor has this been the case only with the Church of England. The most eminent of the Roman pontiffs sprung from obscurity; and the poor people in Italy, until of late, have been accustomed to excite in their children an application to study, by relating to them the story of Pope Sixtus the Fifth. That great man was the son of a cottager; and on his elevation to the *tiara*, he used to say in contempt of the pasquinades that were made upon his birth, that he was (*domus natus illustris*) "born of an illustrious house, "because the sun beams passing through the broken "walls and ragged roof, *illustrated* every corner of "his father's hut!"

Dr. Moore, the present Archbishop of Canterbury, is a native of Gloucester, where his father was a butcher, in such low circumstances that he could not afford the expenses necessary to give his son that liberal education which he both desired and deserved. He was therefore brought up at the free school of his native city, and on account of his docility of behaviour and promising talents, some friends procured for him a humble situation in Pembroke College, Oxford, whence he afterwards removed to Christ-Church.

While at college, he applied himself to his studies with considerable assiduity, and acquired great respect by his modest demeanour, the regularity of his conduct, and his classical attainments.

He had, however, with all these qualifications, no higher prospect before him than that of a country curacy, till one of those lucky circumstances happened which sometimes occur in the great game of human life, and bring the obscurest individual to the most unlikely of all situations.

The late Duke of Marlborough affected to love the study of mathematics; and in consequence of that propensity, Mr. Blis, Savilian professor of geometry and astronomer royal, was frequently at Blenheim.

† This is a play upon words, and unfortunately loses much of its point by translation.

In one of his visits there, the Duke asked the Professor to recommend him a young man qualified to act as private tutor to the Marquis of Blandford. Blifs, whose ideas never went beyond the present circumstance, had no thoughts of his own son, but was puzzling his brains to pitch upon some person that might answer the Duke's purpose. "At the time he was thus ruminating, young Moore happened to be strolling in the park, and as he was of the same college with the Professor, who respected his character, he at once mentioned him to his Grace, as one well qualified to undertake the charge.

In consequence of this recommendation, Mr. Moore was sent for, who very readily accepted the offer which was made him. But the pride of the Duchess would not permit her to allow her son's tutor to dine in her presence; and therefore Mr. Moore was obliged to put up with a place at the second table. The mortification arising from this circumstance, perhaps, was not then very great: but it is remarkable, that this haughty dame, when she became a widow, actually courted the very same tutor to receive her hand!

Few men in Mr. Moore's circumstances would have scrupled how to act on such an occasion. His prudence, however, made him foresee that no real good could well result to him from an acceptance of the proposal; and he accordingly declined it. This generous conduct endearing him to his pupil and the whole family, every exertion was made to promote his advancement in the church.

As a first step, the young Duke settled an annuity of 400*l.* upon Dr. Moore, and obtained for him, in 1769, a golden prebend in the cathedral of Durham, to which a valuable living was annexed. In 1771, his Grace personally solicited for him, of the King, the Deanry of Canterbury, and obtained it; in 1775, he was made Bishop of Bangor.

On the death of Dr. Frederick Cornwallis, in 1783, the see of Canterbury was offered to the two greatest prelates that then ornamented the English Church,
Lowth.

Lowth and Hurd. The former declined the translation, from his great age, and the latter from his attachment to his own diocese of Worcester. It is reported, but upon what ground we will not venture to say, that his Majesty, on this, desired each of those great men to recommend one of the Bishops to him, as the fittest in their judgment to fill the metropolitical chair; and that they both, without having any knowledge of each other's opinion, mentioned Dr Moore.

To have suppressed this anecdote in this place would have been wrong, because the story has been very generally reported, and it *may* be true. As for our part, we are inclined to believe that the real fact is otherwise, and that his advancement to the primacy was the effect of the same patronage which first raised him in the church. Most undoubtedly he had not evinced any of those strong powers which could have produced so remarkable a predilection in his favour in the minds of his learned brethren; besides, we might say, that it is very unlikely a post of such consequence should, in a manner, be suffered to go *a-begging*.

Let the matter be as it may, Dr. Moore obtained the *ne plus ultra* of ecclesiastical dignity, and his conduct in it has been so decorous, as to reflect great honour upon himself and his patrons. The see of Canterbury requires a very temperate person; and his grace has exactly steered that course, which his illustrious predecessors, Tillotson and Secker, pursued with credit to themselves and benefit to the church.

He has wisely avoided taking any active part in political disputes, neither has he adopted any steps to inflame the minds of dissenters on the one hand, nor to alarm the friends of orthodoxy on the other.

When any measure has been before the House of Peers, in which the interests of the church were at all concerned, his Grace has generally been an able, but moderate, speaker. During his primacy, the extension of toleration, and episcopacy have taken place; for the Catholics have been greatly relieved, and Bishops have been appointed in America. Both
these

these circumstances had his Grace's countenance and support. He has, moreover, been the constant friend of merit; and numerous acts of generous patronage might be recorded in his praise.

It too frequently happens, that men of obscure origin affect to forget the lowly stock from whence they sprung. An elevation for which they were no way prepared by family connexions, generally turns their heads dizzy with false pride; and then a view of their humble descent becomes offensive. Former friendships and situations are constantly wiped out of their remembrance, and poor relations are carefully shunned, or are cast into shade, to subsist on a pittance privately bestowed, that they may not tarnish the dignity of the great personage to whom they have the fortune to be allied. He who rises superior to this common failing is a true philosopher, and worthy of our esteem.

Dr. Moore no sooner began to taste the sweets of prosperity, than he eagerly hastened to communicate a portion of them to his family; and as he advanced in preferment, his attention to them was proportionably encreased. This is an eulogy far more honourable than that derived from the most illustrious talents, or the most splendid actions.

The Archbishop has only printed two sermons; the one preached on the thirtieth of January, 1777, before the Lords, and the other on the fast-day in 1781.

His Grace married a sister of Lord Auckland, by whom he has several children.

ARTHUR MURPHY, ESQ.

THAT eminent constellation, which once illuminated the literary hemisphere with such splendour, and in which JOHNSON shone with the most distinguished lustre, has, for some time, been reduced to a very small number of luminaries.

The veteran who now calls for our consideration long moved in this illustrious circle with considerable reputation, and enjoyed a degree of applause, on account of his productions, which has been the lot of but few. He has, however, seen the greatest ornaments of literature cut off, and hardly any others worthy notice arising in their place. He has beheld the new philosophy spreading its glare wide around, and obtaining admiration; and he has lived to witness a new theatrical taste, usurping the province of the genuine drama, and threatening complete destruction to one of the finest branches of poetry.

He has also existed long enough to witness a revolution, not only in matters of a political nature, but in manners, sentiment, and amusements. Surely such a man, still retaining all his faculties in their pristine vigour, cannot contemplate the surrounding scene, in which he is nearly isolated, without feeling all his sensibilities wounded! But let us wave reflection, and proceed to narrative.

Mr. Murphy was born in Cork, about the year 1727, and received in that city the rudiments of his education. From Ireland he was sent to the Jesuit's College at St. Omer's, and attained in that learned seminary a very extensive knowledge of the Latin language.

His uncle, who resided in the West-Indies, designing him for trade, he was placed in a Banking-house in Lombard-street. But the Muses soon attracted him from the bill-book and the ledger; and instead of applying himself to commercial studies, all his attention was devoted to the writings of the most elegant authors, ancient and modern.

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The computing-house was of course soon entirely abandoned; and, with a very scanty pittance of this world's store, he entered himself, in 1750, a member of the Society of Gray's Inn, and became an adventurer in literature, partly from necessity, and partly from choice.

At first, indeed, he formed the design of adopting the stage as a profession, but after two or three essays, one of which was in the character of Othello, he found himself better qualified to *write* plays than to *act* them.†

His first literary undertaking that we know of was the Gray's Inn Journal, which he commenced in 1752, and continued for two years. This work was not

† Charles Churchill, the celebrated satirist, was perhaps too severe on this attempt on the part of Mr. Murphy, whom he always persecuted with a rancour that seemed, from its violence, to have arisen in personal dislike:

" In person tall, a figure form'd to please,
" If symmetry could charm, depriv'd of ease;
" When motionless he stands, we all approve:
" What pity 'tis the THING was made to move!

" His voice in one dull, deep, unvary'd sound,
" Seems to break forth from caverns under ground;
" From hollow chest, the low sepulchral note
" Unwilling heaves, and struggles in his throat.

" Could authors butcher'd give an actor grace,
" All must to him resign the foremost place.
" When he attempts, in some one fav'rite part,
" To ape the feelings of a manly heart,
" His honest features the disguise defy,
" And his face loudly gives his tongue the lie.

" Still in extreme, he knows no happy mean,
" Or raving mad; or stupidly serene:
" In cold-wrought scenes the lifeless actor flags,
" In passion, tears the passion into rags.

" Can none remember?—yes—I know all must—
" When in the MOOR he ground his teeth to dust;
" When o'er the stage he folly's standard bore,
" Whilst common sense stood trembling at the door."

ROSCID, l. 363.

not without its merit, or even celebrity, though when compared with the other periodical papers of the same time, particularly the formidable Rambler; it sinks into insignificance. This publication, however, was the means of introducing the author to the acquaintance of Dr. Samuel Johnson, and as the anecdote is curious, it is worth relating in this place.

Mr. Murphy was on a visit at the country-house of Foote, when a paper was wanted for his journal. Being ill-disposed for composition, the English Aristophanes produced a new French miscellany, in which was an Eastern apologue remarkably ingenious. This pleased our author so well, that he translated it at once, and sent it to his printer. On his return to town, he found that this tale had been taken by the French writer from Johnson's Rambler without acknowledgement. Hurt at this unintentional plagiarism, Murphy waited upon Johnson, and made his apology. The moralist was easily pacified; and an acquaintance commenced, which continued till Johnson's death.

At the beginning of the present reign, Murphy enlisted as a party-writer, in vindication of Lord Bute's administration; and though his labours were but feeble, in comparison with the keen attacks of Opposition, he was handsomely rewarded by those whose cause he espoused.

At this time he was in habits of intimacy with Mr. Wilkes; and though they were engaged in a fierce paper war, the former in the *Auditor*, and the latter in the *North Briton*, yet they knew not, for some time, that they were fighting with each other. On the discovery of the secret, Wilkes's partizans entered into a resolution to oppose any new piece which Mr. Murphy might bring forward on the stage. Accordingly, when our author's farce of "What we must all come to," was performed, a violent party-spirit manifested itself; and the piece, though free from any political allusions, was *damned*! Some years afterwards it was again produced, under the title of "Three Weeks after Marriage," when it received

received unmixed applause, and has continued a favourite entertainment ever since.

Murphy expostulated with Wilkes on the conduct of his friends, and the patriot not only disavowed any share in their proceedings, but promised, that should any future occasion offer, he would himself come forward with his party in the offended bard's support.

As a political writer, Mr. Murphy never rose to any distinguished eminence, otherwise we suppose he would have obtained either preferment or a pension. The only thing with which he was favoured, as far as we know, was the post of Commissioner of Bankrupts, which he held till the appointment of Lord Thurlow to the great seal; and when the present Chancellor came into office, he replaced his old friend upon the list.

Though regularly called to the bar by the Society of Lincoln's Inn, after a long struggle, he never obtained any extensive practice, nor any share of credit on account of legal abilities. He, however, went the Norfolk circuit for a considerable time.

As a writer, he has shone most in dramatic poetry; and it may be said of him, what few who have written for the stage can boast, that he has been equally successful in comedy and tragedy.—His pieces in the former line evince great knowledge of the world, and a minute acquaintance with the human character, combined with that liveliness of fancy which is essentially necessary to produce the sensations of mirth.

In his tragedies, one remarks a happy delineation of character, joined to a due mixture of the pathetic and heroic, clothed with language at once appropriate, easy, and elegant. So great has been the success of his plays, that though the receipts of the former Drury-lane theatre never amounted to three hundred pounds a night, he gained eight hundred pounds by his "Grecian Daughter; and very near the same sum by "His Way to keep Him."

Mr.

Mr. Murphy's intimacy with the first geniuses of the age tended greatly to improve his taste, and consequently to render his productions elegant.— Such an association is of wonderful benefit to a rising and emulous writer. In the company of such as Johnson and Burke, a man possessed of any portion of genius could not fail to have improved his mind.— To have been in habits of close friendship with these persons required no small portion of literary and moral merit.

Mr. Murphy had the credit of introducing Johnson to the acquaintance of Mr. Thrale. He was also a member of the club which Johnson instituted in Essex-street.

In 1762 he wrote an Essay on the Life and Genius of Henry Fielding, prefixed to the complete edition of that writer's works, for which he received a considerable sum. On this occasion he behaved in a manner which few biographers will, perhaps, be disposed to imitate. A considerable quantity of letters and anecdotes were put into his hands, by Sir John Fielding, and others, to elucidate the memoir. On examining these communications, he found that many of them were well adapted to amuse the public, but that at the same time they tended to tarnish the memory of the deceased. He, therefore, suppressed them; and gave to his production the qualified title of an essay. He followed a similar line of conduct with respect to the life of his friend Johnson, which was published in 1791, and for which he was handsomely rewarded.

About the same time appeared his translation of Tacitus, in four quarto volumes. In this work he had been engaged for many years; and there is a circumstance respecting it which does Mr. Murphy infinite honour. Not long before the publication of this work, a nobleman of high rank and consequence in the political world signified to the translator his wish to have it dedicated to him. Murphy, however, had previously determined to inscribe his labours to the man whom he most esteemed, the
immortal

immortal Burke, and he accordingly made a noble sacrifice of interest to friendship!

His last literary production was a tragedy, never performed, entitled "Arminius;" and he has been lately engaged in writing the life of the modern Aristophanes, Samuel Foote.

Mr. Murphy's classical knowledge and taste appear to great advantage in his Latin poems, particularly in a version of Gray's Elegy; and we remember to have seen an elegant translation of Addison's Letter from Italy, written by him, but never printed.

Mr. Murphy usually resides at Hammer-smith, enjoying an easy independence. He is a very entertaining companion, abounding in anecdotes, of which he is engagingly communicative in company. His character is highly respectable; and he enjoys the intimacy of some of the first personages in the kingdom.

We are sorry, however, to observe, that his health is on the decline, and that he has been obliged to go to Bristol, for the benefit of the waters.

W.

EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

WILLIAM, Earl of Dartmouth, succeeded his father in the year 1713, being then only twenty-five years of age. In 1755 he espoused a rich heiress of the name of Nichols, by whom he got a very considerable addition to his fortune, and in 1757 was chosen Recorder of Litchfield.

His Lordship being of a pious turn of mind, his conduct has been chiefly marked by an attention to religious duties, for which, as well as correctness of manners, he has been more distinguished than most men of the same rank. Notwithstanding this, he has not entirely abstracted himself from public affairs, for

we.

we find him at times filling some of the most considerable offices in the state.

His Lordship connected himself early in life with the Rockingham party, and when they came into power in 1765, he was made first Lord of Trade, and sworn of the privy council.

He, however, does not seem to have continued staunch to his old friends, for although he went out with them, yet about the year 1772 he was induced to accept of the post of Secretary of State, and soon after removed to the head of the board of trade. In this situation he took a warm and decided part against the Americans, which recommended him so much to his Majesty, that in 1775 he had the custody of the Privy Seal confided to him, which office he retained during the whole remaining term of Lord North's administration.

This noble Lord, who, along with the late Baron Smythe, was the chief supporter of the *evangelical preaching* at the Lock chapel, is by many considered a methodist. It is somewhat remarkable that a man of his retired and serious turn of mind should engage in the busy career of politics. Soon after his dismissal, he joined the coalition, and by them was appointed Lord Steward of the Household, which place he retained about nine months, and when his friends were driven out of power, he retired with them, and has continued ever since in the obscurity of private life.

During the struggle about the regency he took the side of the prince, for which his Highness shewed his gratitude, by appointing his son, Lord Lewisham, Warden of the Stannaries of Cornwall.

Lord Dartmouth is esteemed a man of sense, and was considered as a tolerable speaker in the House of Lords. In private life, he bears the character of a good husband, a good parent, and a kind master; and is, on the whole, one of the most inoffensive among the nobility.

So early as the year 1755, we find the late Mr. James Hervey, author of the "*Meditations*," &c.
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one of his Lordship's intimates, and speaking highly of his pious disposition.

He was also the close friend of the late Countess of Huntingdon, Mr. George Whitfield, and all the eminent supporters of Calvinistical Methodism. It must be allowed, that as a *private* man he has borne himself with an uniform character through life; and with the *profession* of piety, has invariably connected the *practice* of it.

THE HON. AND REV. DR. SHUTE BARRINGTON,

LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

John Shute Barrington, who was created an English Viscount in the year 1720, was the intimate friend of the immortal Locke, and, like him, a firm assertor of the liberties of mankind, an acute metaphysician, and an able expositor and defender of the sacred scriptures. His Lordship died the latter end of 1734, and left behind him six sons, five of whom have arrived at great eminence in the professions of the army, navy, the law, and the church.

The subject of our present notice was the youngest of these, and was born about the year 1732. He received his education at Eton school, whence he was removed to the university of Oxford, where he was entered of Merton College; but he afterwards went to Christ Church, of which he became a student.

He entered into holy orders in 1756, and the year following took his Degree of Master of Arts. June 10th, 1762, the Degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him; and in 1766, on the death of Dr. Taylor, he was presented to a canon residentiaryship in the cathedral of St. Paul.

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In the year 1769 he was made Bishop of Landaff; and while in that station he brought a bill into the House of Lords, the object of which went to check the encreasing evil of matrimonial infidelity, by preventing persons divorced by parliament from marrying those with whom they had been criminal. His Lordship observed, that many acts of adultery had been committed solely with the intention to obtain separation, in order to form new alliances; and therefore, he was desirous of putting a legal barrier against that licentious practice. In this attempt he was supported by the opinion of the ablest lawyers and divines in the kingdom. His laudable design, however, fell to the ground; though had it taken place much good would have been effected by it, and the long catalogue of divorces must have been drawn within a very narrow compass.

In the year 1782, his Lordship was translated to the See of Salisbury, where he distinguished himself greatly by his liberality in repairing and beautifying the noble cathedral of that diocese; and on the death of Bishop Egerton, in 1797, he was translated to Durham, with the approbation of every well-wisher to the church and state.

In his episcopal capacity, his Lordship has conducted himself with great dignity of manners, and most exemplary attention to the duties of his office.

He has been very watchful over the behaviour of his clergy; and has shewn a most commendable circumspection with respect to the character and qualifications of candidates for holy orders.

With a laudable zeal to promote the study of sacred literature, he bestows premiums upon such candidates as excel in the Hebrew and Greek languages. This, we believe, is quite a novel practice; and doubtless, were it generally followed, it would not only create a spirit of emulation in young persons preparing for the church, but would, moreover, render most of them ashamed of appearing before the Bishop or Archdeacon without a tolerable share of sacred learning.

One anecdote of his Lordship does high honour to his liberality and his piety. A relation of Mrs. Barrington having experienced some embarrassments and disappointments in life, wished to amend his situation (being a military officer), by entering into the church, thinking that the Bishop would provide handsomely for him. On making the necessary application to his kinsman, he was asked what preferment would satisfy him. To this home question he readily answered, that about 500*l.* a year would make him a happy man. "You shall have it," said his Lordship, "but not out of the patrimony of the church. I will not deprive a worthy and regular divine to provide for a necessitous relation. You shall have the sum you mention yearly out of my own pocket."

The Bishop has published several single sermons, and some episcopal charges, which have been greatly esteemed. He also contributed some valuable notes to Mr. Bowyer's "Conjectures on the New Testament," and he has given the world an edition of his father's "Miscellanea Sacra," in three volumes, 8vo. with many editions and corrections.

Though a supporter of Administration, he has conducted himself in Parliament with great moderation.

W.

MR. KING.

THE character of an actor, in private life, has been usually beheld, throughout all Europe, with a certain degree of coolness, bordering on contempt.—In Spain, we believe, comedians are not admitted to *confession*, at this very day; and it is well known, that in France, previously to the abolition, or at least the *limitation* of the Monarchy, they did not enjoy the rites of sepulture, or, in other words, were not permitted to participate of “a Christian burial.”—In this country, illiberal prejudices are happily of less avail, and the names of Shakspeare and of Garrick have contributed not a little to shield the whole profession from indiscriminate contumely.

The object of this memoir, known to all lovers of the drama by the familiar name of “Tom King,” seems to have received a better education than the bulk of the fraternity. His family, which was respectable, sent him to a good grammar-school in the country, whence, at a proper period, he was removed to London, and articled to an attorney.

He soon, however, became captivated with the stage; and quitting his profession, accompanied Shuter, and joined a strolling company, about thirty miles from London. This, of course, irritated his parents, who, instead of endeavouring to reclaim, abandoned and left him to shift for himself. If Tate Wilkinson is correct in his dates, Mr. King must now have been on the stage full half a century, for he tells us, that he played under Mr. Garrick in 1748.

Those who have seen this excellent actor of late, will scarcely be induced to believe, that for many years after his first appearance he played almost exclusively in tragedy. In 1748, he performed George Barnewell; and next year appeared in Dublin in the character of the Roman Father!

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He at length obtained an engagement at Bath, where he contracted a friendship with Miss Baker, at that time a celebrated dancer, and who is at present his wife.

His success at Bath recommended him to the managers of Drury-lane, who employed him at a small salary, and entrusted him only with inferior parts; nor could he, for some time, obtain any character in the least suitable to his talents. He therefore quitted that theatre, repaired again to Ireland, and acted in a considerable number of comic characters, with great applause. He had, by this time, contrived to form in Dublin a very reputable set of acquaintance, and would probably have remained in that country, had he not foreseen the divisions which were likely to take place in its theatrical concerns. He accordingly applied to Mr. Garrick, and the fame of his merit having reached England before his offer, he was engaged, at a genteel salary.

Garrick immediately brought him out in the character of *Tom*, in the "Conscious Lovers;" in which, and many other comic situations, he obtained uncommon applause. But what raised his fame to the standard at which it afterwards stood was his inimitable performance of *Lord Ogleby*, in the "Clandestine Marriage," which he executed in so masterly a style, as to obtain the most flattering attention, and greatly assist the run of that excellent comedy.

It is said, that Garrick intended to play the part himself, but could not fix on a mode of doing it to his mind. On this he desired King to try it, and was so pleased with the first specimen he gave at the rehearsal, that he declared, if he could support the same style of acting throughout, it would be one of the first comic characters on the stage.

On the death of Mr. Powell, in 1765, Mr. King purchased his share of the Bristol theatre, which turned out profitable to him; and with his winter engagement at Drury-lane, produced a very handsome income. He sold it, however, a few years after, to Mr. Palmer, of the theatre at Bath (late of the

the Post-office), and purchased the property of Sadler's Wells; but this not being so productive as he wished, he disposed of it to Mr. Wroughton.

When Mr. Sheridan and the other partners purchased Drury-lane house, that gentleman's inimitable comedy of "The School for Scandal" was brought out. This afforded Mr. King a new opportunity of displaying his talents for comedy, in the character of *Sir Peter Teazle*; and when Sheridan embarked so deeply in politics, as to prevent his attending the duty of the theatre, he delegated his power to King, and appointed him acting manager.

A little before this, Mr. K. had absented himself during a whole season from the stage; on his return, he wrote an interlude for his introduction, called "A Dramatic Olio," which was well received. He has also written "Love at first Sight," a ballad farce, acted at Drury-lane in 1765; and "Wit's last Stake," another farce, played at the same house in 1769.

But in the midst of this prosperity, and when he had realized a handsome fortune, a passion, which he had long suppressed, is reported to have broke out, and destroyed his pleasing prospects. While under Mr. Garrick's dominion, and a candidate for public favour, he discovered an insurmountable propensity to play; and although cautioned against it, yet he could not resist, but lost all his earnings at the gaming-table. One night, however, fortune smiled, and he gained so large a sum as 2000l. On this he is said to have immediately made a most solemn declaration, both to Garrick and his wife, "that he would never touch a dice-box again!" It has been even said, that he executed a bond for a sum of money to the former, under penalty of forfeiture in case he ever gamed. King kept his resolution for many years, until, by the death of his friend 'Davy,' he perhaps deemed himself absolved from his engagement: having then an extensive circle of genteel acquaintance, he was induced to enter himself, about the year 1784 or 1785, a member of the club at Miles's, merely from the love of society, and fully
secure,

secure, as he thought, against the allurements of play. He was, however, at last tempted; and losing, at first, some small sums, became vexed, and ventured deeper, until that fortune he had been so long accumulating by his exertions was almost totally exhausted. In consequence of this, he parted with his pretty little villa at Hampton, and exchanged his house in Gerrard-street for a small one in Store-street, Bedford-square.

Nor was the loss of fortune the only disappointment that ensued. He was at that time in treaty with Dr. Ford for a share of Drury-lane theatre, but this unlucky transfer of his property rendered him incapable of making good the payment. Some trifling dispute having occurred, in consequence of this, Mr. King, in anger, resigned his two situations, as actor and manager at Drury-lane theatre.

He was, however, under the necessity of relying once more on the stage for a maintenance; and accordingly, in 1788, he repaired to Dublin, the scene of his juvenile triumphs, where he was again received with all that warmth and enthusiasm so delectable to an old favourite.

On his return, he performed a stipulated number of nights at Covent-garden theatre, both to the advantage of himself and the manager; and next year he resumed his situation at Drury-lane.

Last year actuated by motives of sincere friendship, Mr. Smith, who long quitted the stage, came to town, expressly on purpose to play *Charles*, in the "School for Scandal," for his benefit; and the house, as might be expected, was, in the language of the theatre, "a bumper."

Mr. King is undoubtedly the first comic actor the stage has possessed for many years, and also stands unrivalled in the happy art of delivering a lively prologue.

THE HON. BROWNLOW NORTH,

LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

THIS respectable prelate is half-brother of the late Frederick, Earl of Guildford, the amiable but unfortunate minister of this country, in perhaps one of the most eventful periods of its history.

His Lordship was educated at Eton school, whence he removed to Trinity college, Oxford, which he afterwards left for a fellowship of All-Souls.

Here he took his degree of L.L.D. and on entering into holy orders, was preferred to a canonry of Christ Church; in 1770 he was advanced to the Deanry of Canterbury, and appointed one of the King's chaplains; the year following, he was consecrated Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry.†

In 1774, he was translated and confirmed in the See of Worcester; and in 1781, he was removed to Winchester.

In all the situations he has filled, his Lordship has obtained distinguished reputation; and every church over which he has presided ranks his name in the catalogue of its most munificent prelates.

When he was Bishop of Worcester, he promoted that excellent institution for the benefit of the widows and orphans of poor clergyman belonging to his diocese, in aid of the charity derived to them from the music meeting, and also for the relief of the aged infirm incumbents of small livings, and of poor curates with large families.

His Lordship's manner is highly dignified, yet condescending: he blends authority and watchfulness with tenderness and benevolence. He is justly regarded as the father of his diocese; and his charities, which are very extensive, are judiciously administered.

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His

† Dr. North was Dean of Canterbury before he was 29 years old, and Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry at the age of 33.

His Lordship has invariably preserved thro' life the esteem of men of all parties and persuasions.— During a long residence in Italy, whither he went on account of his health, he attracted the universal regard of the dignified clergy of the Roman communion. In short, the suavity of his manners and his elegant deportment excited in many a high degree of respect for the English HIERARCHY.

Dr. North at one time took an active part in the great political questions of the day. In 1784 he supported Mr. Fox's celebrated India bill in the House of Lords; and during another important period, we find his name in every division of the peers in favour of the Prince of Wales' uncontroled right to the Regency.

As Bishop of the see of Winchester, he is prelate of the Garter, the *insignia* of which order are constantly worn by his Lordship.

He is now a widower, and has four daughters and two sons.

MR. WILLIAM JACKSON, OF EXETER.

THIS elegant composer, and ingenious writer, was born at Exeter, in May, 1730. His father was an eminent grocer in that place, and afterwards master of the city work-house.

He gave his son a very liberal education; and perceiving that the bent of his genius lay towards music, he complied with his inclinations, and put him under the tuition of Mr. Sylvester, then organist of the cathedral church of St. Peter, in Exeter, with whom he continued two years. After leaving Mr. Sylvester,
Mr.

Mr. Jackson went to London, about the year 1748, where he became a pupil of Mr. Travers, organist of the King's chapel, and of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, with whom he also remained two years, and then returned to his native city, where he taught music for many years with great reputation. He published several beautiful compositions, marked by the most chaste conceptions, the most elegant taste, and the most correct knowledge of the principles of harmony. In short, all his pieces were received with applause, and still rank very high in the musical world.

Notwithstanding his great and universally acknowledged merit in his profession, he obtained no situation as an organist till Michaelmas, 1777, when he succeeded Mr. Richard Langdon as Sub-chanter, Organist, Lay-vicar, and Master of the Choristers, in the cathedral of Exeter.

Mr. Jackson, early in life, married Miss Bartlett, a milliner at Exeter, who is still alive, and by whom he has had several children, three of whom only are now living, two sons and a daughter. One of the former (the elder) went to China, and returned thence with a competent fortune, which he intended to enjoy in his native city, in the bosom of his family—but the appointment of an Embassy to the court of Pekin, called him from his retirement into service, and he accordingly accompanied Lord Macartney on that mission, and now resides once more at Exeter. The youngest son living is employed at present at Turin, as Secretary to our Ambassador at that court.

After amusing the circle of his friends with several ingenious pieces of his writing in prose and verse, Mr. Jackson appeared as an author in the year 1782, at which time he published in two small volumes, 12mo. "Thirty Letters on Various Subjects." These formed a miscellaneous collection on Literature and Science, and evinced extensive knowledge, united with an elegant taste. On poetry, music, and painting, his opinions are allowed to be very ingenious, and have obtained general approbation. But in some respects he manifested a paradoxical spirit, particularly

larly in the instance of *spontaneous generation*, a notion which he attempted to illustrate, and revive, from the oblivion in which it had so long and deservedly sunk. These letters, however, on the whole raised our author's credit very high. It was not, however, till 1795, that he thought proper to publish a new edition of them, although they had been out of print for several years before. To that edition, which is in one volume octavo, there are several additions and corrections.

During the present year Mr. Jackson has added a second volume, under the title of "The Four Ages; with Essays on Various Subjects." In this ingenious work he considers the four mythological ages as characteristic of so many distinct periods of the world, but in a different order from that in which the poets have placed them. Among the essays there is a most curious and interesting one, on the character of Gainborough the painter, of whom some whimsical anecdotes are given.

In the year 1792, a literary society was instituted at the Globe Inn, Fore-st. Exeter, of which the first members were Dr. Downman, president; Mr. Polwhele, author of 'The History of Devonshire;' Mr. Jackson; the Rev. Mr. Swete, of Oxtou; Mr. Hole, author of an "Essay on the Arabian Nights Entertainments"—Mr. Sheldon, the Anatomist; and other ingenious gentlemen resident in Exeter, or its environs. Each produced in his turn an essay in prose or verse, which was read at the regular meeting of the society. An octavo volume of these was printed in 1796, which reflects great honour upon this institution. The papers, however, appear without the names of the authors, which in our opinion is a piece of delicacy not to be commended: and as we are not bound by any rules of secrecy, we shall not scruple to mention those which belong to the gentleman of whom we are now speaking.

Mr. Jackson has no less than three in this volume, all of them connected with each other in point of subject. These are, essay the eleventh, "On Literary

rary Fame, and the Historical Character of Shakespeare ;" essay xviii. "An Apology for the Characters and Conduct of Iago ;" and essay xviii. "An Apology for the Character and Conduct of Shylock." The first is certainly the best, and will be read by all those who admire our immortal bard with great pleasure, and even with improvement. Mr. Jackson is peculiarly happy in throwing new light upon the point which he undertakes to illustrate, and he brings his various reading to bear with great force upon the subject. — He is ingenious in his apology for Iago, and says many things to "extenuate" his conduct ; but that in behalf of Shylock is far more convincing and satisfactory. These essays are lively, pleasant, and exceedingly well written.

Mr. Jackson possesses the advantage of a chaste, correct, and even elegant style. The reader will not slumber over his pages, nor when he has perused either of his volumes, will he wish to lay it by in peace : he will recur to it often with new avidity, and receive from it fresh pleasure. The same may be said of his literary as of his musical compositions, that they will always charm with the force of novelty and delight, though repeated a thousand and a thousand times.

In temper and conversation he is what he appears in his writings, pleasant, social, communicative, and abounding in judicious remarks and entertaining anecdotes.

©.

LORD MALMSBURY.

THIS distinguished nobleman, whose name will frequently occur in the history of George the Third, would have inherited philosophy as well as fortune from his ancestors, could the one have been as easily transmitted as the other.

His father, James Harris, Esq. the celebrated author of "Hermes," was the son of Elizabeth, sister to Anthony, Earl of Shaftesbury, the immortal author of the "Characteristics." Mr Harris was born at Salisbury, in 1708, and after receiving a classical education in that city, was removed to Wadham college, Oxford, which he left without taking a degree.

He represented the borough of Christ-church, in Hampshire, in several Parliaments; but did not obtain any public office till the year 1763, when he was preferred to a seat at the Admiralty board, which he resigned soon after, on being appointed to another on the Treasury-bench. In July, 1765, he was deprived of his place, and continued out of office until 1774, when he became Secretary and Comptroller to the Queen, which post he held till his death, December 21st, 1780.

His only son, James Harris, now Lord Malmsbury, was born on the 20th April, 1746, and being early designed for a public life, received an education accordingly.

Under so profound and elegant a scholar as Mr. Harris, the son could not but derive every assistance calculated to render him an ornament to his family. His education, prior to his removal to Oxford, was conducted chiefly under the eye of his father. He also left college without taking a degree, and was very early employed as Secretary to an embassy at one of the Northern courts.

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In 1772, he appeared in the character of Envoy-extraordinary at Berlin; and in the following year both he and his father were returned members of Parliament for the borough of Christ-church. His diplomatic conduct gave so much satisfaction to the government which he represented, that in 1775 he was made Knight of the Bath, and about the same time was appointed Envoy-extraordinary to the court of Russia.

After residing a considerable time at Petersburg, he was employed as ambassador at the Hague; which important station was occupied by him in the year 1787, when Holland was threatened with a revolution, which was averted for some time, by an humiliating recourse to the assistance of Prussian bayonets. The conduct of Sir James Harris on that occasion was peculiarly offensive to the patriots; but it was so highly satisfactory to the Prince of Orange and the King of Prussia, that they bestowed upon him the privilege of bearing the Prussian eagle in his arms, with the motto appertaining to the House of Nassau, in consideration of the signal services which he had rendered them.

These distinctions were confirmed by his own sovereign in 1789, and Sir James was created a peer, September 15th, 1788, by the title of Lord Malmsbury, Baron of Malmsbury, in the county of Wilts.

His Lordship remained out of employment from that time till the government found it expedient, at the end of 1796, to comply with the wish of the people in endeavouring to obtain the restoration of peace. No man at that time appeared more fit to be entrusted with such an important charge than Lord Malmsbury; and we believe that his *first* appointment to this station was with the entire approbation of all parties. His Lordship's negotiation, however, failed—and he was enjoined to quit Paris, by a peremptory order of the French Directory, in forty-eight hours, December 17, 1796.†

† The Directory conceived that he had been tampering as a partisan, rather than treating like a diplomatic agent.

Whatever opinions may be entertained respecting the conduct of the two powers, in this negotiation, or the views with which they were actuated, it must be allowed that his Lordship evinced on that occasion the most consummate knowledge of diplomatic business.

A second attempt to put an end to this long and sanguinary contest was thought proper to be made by our Ministers in June, 1797, and Lord Malmsbury was again appointed to the office of negotiator. The necessary preliminaries having been accordingly settled with the Directory, his Lordship and suite set out on the 30th of that month for Lisse, the place fixed upon as the seat of business, and the French government immediately extended a chain of telegraphs between that city and Paris.

It would be foreign to our purpose to enter into the merits of the political manoeuvres practised in this diplomatic game. The French Commissioners shewed themselves adroit enough for his Lordship, though an old practitioner, versed in all the arts of modern intrigue. Their demands, as far as they avowed them, were abundantly extravagant; and the care with which they concealed other objects, was dexterous indeed. After playing with each other until the patience of all Europe was exhausted, and suspicions began to take place on the score of sincerity, the Commissioners had recourse to their old method of putting an end to the negotiation, and actually dismissed his Lordship, upon the plea that he was not vested with full powers to resign the whole of the conquests made by this country from France and her allies during the war.

The English minister accordingly quitted Lisse, and arrived in London on the 20th of September, without having effected a single step favourable to the great object on which he was employed. It has been indeed said, in the senate of a neighbouring country, that the "Irish Directory" impeded his operations, by means of their agent!

Without

Without throwing the slightest reflection upon his Lordship's talents, or inclinations, we yet cannot but acquiesce with the opinion of many very respectable politicians, and those too of the most moderate cast of sentiment, that after the ill success which attended his former mission, it was bad policy in the ministry to employ the same person on a similar negotiation.

Some have even ventured to say, that the line of practice in which his Lordship has usually been engaged rendered him an unfit person to be charged with this business. Different times, people, and occasions certainly call for different kinds of treatment. New modes, and even a new language, should be adopted, in negotiating with a people who have thrown aside old political ceremonies and considerations; and therefore another kind of ambassador should have been sent to treat with them, and one whose whole life had been occupied in the knowledge and practice of the ancient diplomatic forms.

Whether this sort of reasoning be right or wrong, we shall not take upon us to determine. But we cannot help regretting, that when his Lordship's first attempt failed, his Majesty's ministers had not put it out of the power of their adversaries to accuse them of insincerity, by employing another minister, when they thought it expedient to treat once more for the restoration of peace.

This nobleman possesses the confidence of the present administration, and is intimately acquainted with its views relative to continental politics. It is not difficult, therefore, to prognosticate, that his diplomatic talents will not be suffered to rust in obscurity.

Lord Malmsbury married, July 28th, 1777, the daughter of Sir George Amyand, Bart. by a sister of Sir George Cornwall, Bart. and has by his lady several children.

He has two sisters living; one married, the other single, and residing at his Lordship's seat, the manor-house of Great Durnford, about four miles from Salisbury, only remarkable for its neat and embellished pleasure-grounds. In the same village still
stands

stands the cottage to which the great author of *Hermes* retired from the busy world, and in which he wrote the chief part of his works. It is unoccupied, but its furniture &c. is in all respects carefully and religiously preserved by Lord Malmesbury, in the exact state in which it was left by his father. This very interesting cottage is entirely secluded from the public eye, being surrounded on three sides by walls, and only open on the west side, which adjoins the Avon. His Lordship generally spends a few weeks in every year at the manor-house in great retirement.

W. J.

JOSEPH WHITE, D. D.

CLAUDIAN PROFESSOR OF ARABIC,

In the University of Oxford.

THE lives of such men as have risen from very low situations in life to distinguished eminence, by the strength of their talents alone, are among the most useful articles of biography, because they hold out encouragement to young persons of a like description to exert their abilities with perseverance; and, at the same time, afford a lesson to those who have it in their power to assist genius. Had CHATTERTON met with a friend, generous enough to put him in a line where he might have turned his talents to an honourable and beneficial account, he would not, probably, have sought an early grave as a refuge from his miseries.

The very ingenious and worthy subject of the present article was born of parents in indigent circumstances in Gloucestershire. His father was, we are informed, a journeyman weaver, and brought his son up to the same profession. Being, however, a sensible man, and, for one in his situation, tolerably educated

educated, he gave him what little learning was in his power. This excited a thirst for greater acquisitions.

Young White inherited a serious cast of temper from his parents; and he employed all the time he could spare in the study of such books as fell in his way. His attainments at length were so very respectable, that he began to be talked of as a prodigy of learning in his native village. A neighbouring gentleman of fortune luckily chanced to hear of this celebrated scholar; and curiosity inclined him to see and converse with him. The modesty of the self-instructed youth recommended him to favour, while the respectability of his knowledge rendered him an object of admiration. The gentleman felt that it was a pity such a flower should

—“blush unseen,
“And waste its sweetness in the desert air;”

he accordingly encouraged his scholastic ambition. He assisted him also considerably in his studies: and so rapidly did the young plant flourish under his fostering care, that the generous patron sent him to the University of Oxford, where he was entered of Wadham College. There he applied himself with such assiduity to his studies, and conducted himself with so much regularity, as to gain the general esteem of the members of that society.

On the 19th of February, 1773, he took the degree of Master of Arts, and about that time engaged in the study of the oriental languages, to which he was induced by the particular recommendation of Doctor Moore, now Archbishop of Canterbury. That discerning man observed a dint of application in Mr. White, united with a peculiar turn for philological enquiries, which he thought might turn to his account, if devoted to one object. Fortunately he hit upon the one which was best suited for Mr. White, and which has been of the most essential service to him. He had before acquired a tolerable share of Hebrew learning;

learning; and, consequently, his progress in the other oriental languages was greatly facilitated thereby.

In 1775, he was appointed Archbishop Laud's Professor of Arabic; on entering upon which office he pronounced a masterly oration, which was soon afterwards printed with the title of "*De Utilitate Ling. Arab. in Studiis Theologicis Oratio habita Oxoniis in Schola Linguarum, vii. id. Aprilis, 1775.*" 4to.

In this discourse the Professor endeavours to prove the vast importance and utility of the Arabic language, particularly in elucidating the sacred writings. He therefore dwelt upon the necessity of this branch of literature, and enforced the study of it with an ardour which was natural for one in his situation. The oration had its effect; and many were actually led to study the Arabic, who had before treated it as barren and unprofitable.

He was at this time Fellow of his College, being elected in 1774. In 1778, Mr. White printed the Syriac Philoxenian Version of the four gospels, the MS. of which Dr. Gloucester Ridley, had given to New College. This version was entitled, "*Sacrorum Evangeliorum Versio Syriaca Philoxeniana Ex Codd. MSS. Ridleianis in Bibl. Coll. Nov. Oxon. Repositis, nunc primum edita, cum Interpretatione et Annotationibus Josephi White, &c.*" 2 vols. 4to.

November 15, 1778, he preached a very ingenious and elegant sermon before the University, which, according to custom, was soon afterwards printed, under the title of "*A Revision of the English Translation of the Old Testament recommended. To which is added, some Account of an ancient Syriac Translation of great Part of Origen's Hexaplar Edition of the LXX. lately discovered in the Ambrosian Library at Milan.*" 4to. About this time he was appointed one of the preachers at Whitehall chapel.

In 1780, Mr. White published "*A Specimen of the Civil and Military Institutes of Timour or Tamerlane: a Work written originally by that celebrated Conqueror in the Mosul Language, and since translated into Persian. Now first rendered from the Persian*"

Persian into English, from a MS. in the Possession of William Hunter, M.D. with other Pieces." 4to.

The whole of this work appeared in 1783, translated into English by Major Davy, with Preface, Indexes, Geographical Notes, &c. by Mr. White, in one volume, 4to.

In Easter term, 1783, being then Bachelor of Divinity, he was appointed to preach the Bampton lecture the next year. As soon as he was nominated he sketched out the plan; and finding assistance necessary to the perfection of it in such a manner as he wished, he went down to Devonshire, on a visit to Mr. Samuel Badcock, then settled as a dissenting minister at South Molton. Doubtless in this interview the scheme was well digested, and Mr. Badcock undertook his share of the task with that promptitude for which he was remarkable. This visit released the professor's mind from a considerable burthen which had oppressed it. Where, indeed, could he have found such an auxiliary? The pen of Badcock, was not only that of "a ready" but of an elegant writer. He touched no subject without ornamenting it. His style was chaste, flowing, and nervous. He had, moreover, an universal knowledge of theological learning. In controversy he was quite at home. No wonder, therefore, that the Bampton lectures were admirable in point of language, and forcible in respect to argument.

Let us not, however, detract from the lecturer's merit. Great was the genius which formed the plan, and gave a body to the work. Mr. White acted with prudence in calling to his aid such men as Badcock and Parr. Yet his own share of these labours was sufficient to entitle him to the celebrity which they have procured him, and he is only to be blamed for not having acknowledged his obligations to those elegant scholars, in a preface to the volume, when it was published.

As soon as the lectures were delivered, the applause with which they were received was general throughout the University. They were printed the same year,

year, and met with universal approbation. A second edition appeared in 1785, to which the author added a sermon, which he had some time before preached before the University, on the necessity of propagating christianity in the East-Indies.

Mr. White's reputation was now established, and he was considered as one of the ablest vindicators of the christian doctrines modern time had witnessed. Lord Thurlow, without any solicitation, gave him a prebend in the cathedral of Gloucester, which at once placed him in easy and independant circumstances. Soon after this he took his degree of Doctor of Divinity, and was looked up to with the greatest respect in the University, as one of its chief ornaments, until the year 1788, when the death of Mr. Badcock disclosed his share in the admired lectures. At first, Dr. White was astonished; but the letters that had passed between Badcock and him, on this very subject, were not only in existence, but in the hands of one who felt himself gratified in being the possessor of so important a secret. In addition to this, there was found among the papers of the deceased, a promissory-note for 500*l.* from the Doctor; the payment of which was demanded, but refused by him on the ground that it was illegal in the first instance, as not having the words "value received," and secondly that it was for service to be rendered in the history of Egypt, which the Doctor and Mr. Badcock had projected. The friends of the deceased, however, were of a different opinion; and the Dr. very properly consented to liquidate the debt.

Notwithstanding this concession, Dr. Gabriel, who possessed the letters, printed them in 1789, in order, as he said, to vindicate the character of the deceased as well as his own, both of which had been assailed on this occasion. In consequence of this publication, Dr. White printed "A Statement of his literary Obligations to the Rev. Mr. Samuel Badcock, and the Rev. Samuel Parr, L. L. D." By this it appeared, that though Mr. Badcock's share in the lectures was considerable and important, yet that it was not in
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that proportion which had been represented. As to Dr. Parr's, it consisted simply of verbal corrections.

Thus ended this curious dispute, which at that time threw the whole University into confusion and even contention. The Doctor's apology, however (for such in fact his statement is to be considered,) gave sufficient satisfaction, not only to his fellow academics, but to the literary world at large.

Since that period the professor has vacated his fellowship, by taking to himself a wife, and accepting a college living, in Norfolk, where he resides during a considerable part of the year. In his parsonage-house, he has a printing press, with a large quantity of oriental types, and there he is at present busily engaged in printing the Syriack Old Testament, described in the appendix to his sermon on the necessity of a revival of the English translation of the Bible. His man and maid servant labour at the press, and Mrs. White assists her husband in composing.

Among Mr. Badcock's papers was found an analysis of the projected history of Egypt, in Dr. White's handwriting. It is a very masterly sketch; and we hope the learned professor will find time to complete a design, for the execution of which he has in a manner pledged himself to the public; and which, in consequence of recent and important events, we think will bring him more credit and profit than the publication of the Syriac Bible.

Dr. White is the reviewer of publications in Hebrew and subjects of oriental literature in "the British Critic." O.

RICHARD HURD, D. D.

LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

THIS learned and truly venerable prelate was born at Congreve, a village in Staffordshire, where his father was a respectable farmer, who intending his son for the church, placed him under the tuition of that eminent scholar, Anthony Blackwall.

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Having attained a sound classical knowledge, he was sent to Cambridge, where he was admitted of Emanuel College, of which he afterwards became fellow; and was presented by his society to the living of Thurcaston in Lincolnshire.

In this retirement he devoted himself to the duties of his situation, and the cultivation of letters.— Here he prepared his edition of Horace, which he judiciously dedicated to Bishop Warburton, then considered as the colossus of literature, and the first critic of his day. Few persons had a keener eye to discern the merits of men than Warburton; and though no one, perhaps, had a more haughty mind, or ever treated his adversaries with such coarse severity, yet certain it is, that he was entirely destitute of envy, and dreaded not the depreciation of his own fame, in consequence of the rising reputation of others.

He allured Mr. Hurd from his beloved state of seclusion, and brought him forward to the world, almost against his own inclination. He made him Archdeacon of Gloucester, and by way of acquiring popularity for him in the metropolis, associated him with himself in the situation of preacher at the chapel in Lincoln's-Inn.

The object of the Bishop was soon obtained. His discourses procured general admiration; and the preacher attracted the notice and friendship of the *great* Earl of Mansfield, through whose interest he obtained the distinguished office of Preceptor to the Prince of Wales, a situation for which no man in the kingdom was better calculated, and the duties of which he performed with great honour to himself, and, it is to be hoped, benefit to his royal pupil.

Preferment was now certain; nor was it long withheld. In 1775 he was made Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry; in 1781 he was appointed clerk of the closet to the king; and on the 30th of June, of the same year, he was confirmed in the see of Worcester.

On the death of Dr. Cornwallis, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1783, that dignity was offered to
Bishop

Bishop Hurd; but he had obtained a situation more congenial to his wishes, and therefore he declined it.

Since his translation to Worcester, his Lordship has almost wholly secluded himself from the busy world, residing chiefly at Hartlebury-castle, the episcopal palace of his diocese. This ancient and noble pile he has enriched by a large and inestimable library, containing the greater part of the books that had belonged to Mr. Pope and Bishop Warburton, which he has bequeathed for the use of his successors.

Here he exhibits a faithful and beautiful picture of primitive episcopacy; beloved and venerated by all ranks, as well of the laity as the clergy.

It remains to say something of his Lordship's literary character; and it would not be exaggerated praise to assert that he stands at the head of the present generation of English scholars, eminently superior to those of his own age and standing, and unrivalled by such as are younger than himself.

He has shewn his critical powers and taste to the greatest advantage in his edition of Horace's "*Epistolæ ad Pisones*," &c. with an English commentary and notes; and also in his edition of Cowley's works. The first appeared in 1759, and the latter in 1772.

But the work which procured him the greatest reputation, was his "*Moral and Political Dialogues, with Letters on Chivalry and Romance*," 3 vols. 8vo. 1765. Some of the pieces had appeared before, without a name, and their success probably led the ingenious author to publish a complete and enlarged edition. These dialogues evince a profound knowledge of the English history and constitution, and breathe a warm attachment to the cause of liberty.

As a theological writer, his principal productions are two volumes of excellent sermons, preached before the Society of Lincoln's-Inn; and another of Discourses on the Prophecies, at the lecture founded by Bishop Warburton at the same place. In these compositions we observe deep thinking, close logical reasoning, fervent piety, and chaste and elegant language.

As a disputant, Dr. Hurd appeared to great advantage in a pamphlet entitled "Remarks on Mr. Hume's Essay on the Natural History of Religion." This anonymous performance irritated the philosopher considerably, and he expressed his resentment in terms that shewed how much he had been hurt by the castigation.

The attachment manifested by Dr. Hurd to Bishop Warburton has often brought upon him very illiberal censures. About the time of his first connexion with that great prelate, he printed an "Essay on the delicacy of Friendship," in which Dr. Jortin and Dr. Leland of Dublin were treated rather roughly for their want of due respect to the author's patron. When we recollect the motives which produced this essay, we see no reason to blame Dr. Hurd; his zeal for his friend was commendable, though it perhaps carried him rather beyond the line of prudence. When reflection operated on his mind, he accordingly saw reason to disapprove of his hastiness; and, much to his honour, took great pains to suppress the obnoxious pamphlet. It would have been perhaps better if it had been suffered to sink into that oblivion which the author wished; as unfortunately, on his Lordship's publishing a large and magnificent edition of his friend's works in 1788, one of the greatest scholars of this age, too officiously perhaps, and too much in that very spirit which he wanted to expose, reprinted the Essay, with some other "Tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian."

When Bishop Hurd's edition of Warburton's works appeared, the world was greatly disappointed at not finding the long-expected life of that celebrated character. This afforded fresh ground for censure, and it was by no means spared. - In consequence of this complaint, he printed a prefatory discourse, by way of introduction to the work, containing a brief but elegant memoir of the author. It is supposed that on his Lordship's decease a more copious biography of his ancient friend and patron will be left for publication: this, of course, will exhibit a history of English literature, for half a century.

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We had nearly forgotten to mention, that the earliest production of his Lordship's pen, which has appeared in print, was an Ode on the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.

W.

DAVID STEWART ERSKINE,

EARL OF BUCHAN.

IF the love of freedom, and the love of literature; if eminent proficiency in the fine arts, and an eager fondness to patronise the same proficiency in others; if classical and patriotic enthusiasm, associated with not a few of the most amiable and respectable moral virtues;—are calculated to recommend any man to the esteem and praise of his contemporaries, David, Earl of Buchan, cannot easily fail of obtaining their highest approbation.

This nobleman is the representative of a younger branch of the illustrious family of the Erskines, Earls of Marr, whose virtues and wisdom recommended them for a series of generations to the very honourable and confidential office of tutors to the ancient Kings of Scotland. At the university of Glasgow, in early youth, he applied with ardent and successful diligence to every ingenious and liberal study. His hours of relaxation from science and literature were frequently passed in endeavours to acquire the arts of design, etching, engraving, and drawing, in the academy which the excellent, but ill requited, ROBERT FOULIS for some time laboured to support in that western metropolis of Scotland.

Succeeding to the hereditary estates and honours of his family, he from that moment evinced a generous ambition to maintain and exalt, by his personal exertions, the true dignity of the Scottish peerage, and the name of ERSKINE.

The king's ministers had been long accustomed, at each new election, to transmit to every peer a list of the names of sixteen of his fellow-peers, for whom he was required to give his vote, in the choice of the

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the members who should represent the nobles of Scotland in the British parliament; and to this humiliating usurpation, the descendants of the most illustrious names had accustomed themselves tamely to submit! The Earl of Buchan, with the spirit of an ancient Baron, took an early opportunity of declaring, that he would oblige the Secretary of State who should insult him with such an application to wash away the affront with his blood. The practice from that time ceased; and ministers were obliged to adopt some other less offensive mode of exercising their electioneering influence over the Caledonian peerage.

The Earl had two very promising brothers, both younger than himself; and on their education he earnestly bestowed that care which was to be expected from the kindness and vigilance, not merely of a near relation, but of a prudent and affectionate parent. The fortunes of his family had been, from different causes, not dishonoured indeed, but impaired so considerably, that they could no longer afford an annual income sufficiently ample to support its dignities with due splendour, and to enable him to gratify all the generous wishes of a munificent spirit. Struck with this, he resolutely adopted a plan of œconomy, admirably fitted to retrieve and re-establish those falling fortunes; and his endeavours (perhaps the most honourable and difficult which a young and liberal-minded nobieman could resolve upon), without subjecting him to the imputation of parsimony, have been crowned and rewarded with opulence.

He perceived, with concern, that since the days of Sibbald, and Gordon of Straloch, the study of the antiquities of the Scottish history had been shamefully and unhappily neglected; and it is chiefly owing to his patriotic exertions, that the Royal Antiquarian Society of Scotland is indebted for its existence.

The High School of Edinburgh is confessedly one of the best seminaries in the kingdom, for the initiation of youth in the first principles of the Latin language.

language. By frequent visits to this seminary, the Earl of Buchan had sought every opportunity of recommending to public notice the skill and attention of the teachers, as well as the happy proficiency of their pupils; and a premium, his gift, is annually bestowed at the university of Aberdeen, upon the successful competitor in a trial of excellence among the students.

On reviewing the memorials of the Scottish nobility, Lord Buchan felt his enthusiastic veneration in a particular manner excited, by the science and virtues of the illustrious Napier, the inventor of logarithms, and the most eminent discoverer in philosophy of which Scotland can as yet boast.— With a generous hand he aspired to crown the memory of his illustrious countryman with due honours; and in a well-written biographical memoir, displayed his life and character to the reverence and imitation of the present age. The enthusiasm of Lord Buchan has also instituted an annual festive commemoration of Thomson, at Ednam, the scene of that poets birth. Mr. Pinkerton, the historian and antiquary; Burns, who was prematurely snatched away from the admiration of the present age; Tytler, the translator of Callimachus; and a long list of other men of genius, have been so fortunate as to attract the patronage and friendship of Lord Buchan.

The life of Andrew Fletcher has been by his care happily illustrated; and we owe to him some precious fragments of speeches and essays, by that incomparable patriot, which had not been before printed.

The Earl of Buchan's exertions have been as invariably faithful to the cause of Liberty as of Literature. He has been always understood to be among the most zealous votaries of the principles upon which the revolution of 1688 was accomplished. His voice, his writings, his exertions in every manly and honourable mode, have ever been ready to resist any threatened infringement of those principles, in the British legislature or government. When the new dawn of a revolution favourable to genuine
liberty

liberty broke forth in France, he was not among the most tardy to hail its rise, and to bless its progress. When the kings of Europe arose in arms for the purpose of once more binding the genius of that nation in the fetters of despotism, the Earl could not view the ill-omened enterprise without devoutly wishing that its force might be shattered against the sacred armour of that virtue, and new-born freedom, which it boasted to destroy.

On beholding those excesses into which the French have been hurried in the progress of their revolutionary career, he lamented that the errors of humanity are ever too closely associated with its most splendid and heroic exertions, yet without abandoning those generous wishes for the immortal establishment of Gallic freedom, which he had before accustomed himself to entertain.

Long may he survive to do honour to the age by his virtues; to sustain by his voice and his exertions the cause of genuine British freedom; and to patronise that literature, and those fine arts, in which he himself excels!

T. N.

JAMES NORTHCOTE, ESQ. R. A.

THIS ingenious artist is descended from the ancient and respectable family of the NORTHCOTES, which has been settled in Devonshire at least ever since the conquest, has given several high-sheriffs to the county, many representatives for it in parliament, and on which a baronetage was conferred in the reign of James the First.

The subject of the present article was born at Plymouth in the year 1746. His father was an eminent tradesman in that town, and brought up his son to his own business. His propensity to the elegant arts, however, prevailed over the drudgery of a mechanical employment; and at length he determined to abandon the occupation in which he had been engaged, and devote himself entirely to his favourite object. With this view he came to London, and placed

placed himself under the care and tuition of his countryman and friend Sir Joshua Reynolds, then in the zenith of his glory. That great man was ever ready to lend his helping hand to aspiring merit; and he gave Mr. Northcote his utmost assistance towards perfecting himself in the art of painting. Our artist continued with Sir Joshua five years, living with him in all the familiarity of friendship, and introduced by him to the most eminent characters of the age.

In the summer of 1777, Mr. Northcote set out for Italy, following in this the example of his great master. He visited every part of that delightful country, which at that time was the unrivalled seat of the fine arts. At Rome he continued near three years, which he found short enough for the wonders and the beauties which abounded in it to engage the consideration of a man of taste, who was desirous of treasuring up in his mind the most extensive knowledge of the sciences connected with his profession.

During his residence in Italy, he profited so well by the opportunities he met with, and obtained so extensive an acquaintance with the first artists of the age and country in which he was, that he became greatly respected. His talents and deportment procured him the honour of being elected a member of the ancient Etruscan Academy at Cortona, of the Imperial Academy at Florence, and of the Academy Del Forti, at Rome.

While at Florence, he painted a portrait of himself, for the academy, which is a compliment always expected from every new member.

He returned to England in 1780, and came by the way of Flanders, not only because it was during the time of war, but that he might have the advantage of observing all that could be seen of the eminent masters of the Flemish School.

Thus amply furnished with every requisite that could constitute him a master in his profession, he entered upon it in the metropolis of his native country, shortly after his arrival, and soon obtained the

GRAND A most

most distinguished reputation. In 1786 he was chosen a member of the Royal Academy, and in every subsequent exhibition at Somerset-house his productions have borne a conspicuous part.

Perhaps the most perfect picture from his pencil was exhibited the year he was admitted of the academy. The subject is—the two young princes murdered in the tower. The story is strikingly and affectingly told; the drawing is perfectly correct, and the assassins are particularly well delineated. This picture was purchased by Alderman Boydell, and an engraving from it graces his splendid edition of Shakespeare. Our artist has also painted some other pieces for the same work; all of which have great merit, but none in an equal degree with that just mentioned.

In the exhibition of 1796, Mr. Northcote produced a series of moral pictures, designed to shew the opposite effects of seriousness and levity in two young women in menial situations of life. He clearly had Hogarth in view; but though his pictures are good, they tell not what they are meant to express with the force which characterizes that inimitable artist's productions. These have since been engraved.

It redounds greatly to his praise, that his pencil has never in the slightest instance deviated from morality and decency. The reputation which Mr. Northcote has acquired as a painter is doubtless well merited. His colouring is chaste, forcible, and distinct; his pictures have that breadth of light and shade which is one of the most agreeable properties of a good painting, and which is yet so seldom observed, even in the works of masters. His historical pieces shew a great and accurate acquaintance with the subject, much study, and that vigour of conception which is the true characteristic of native genius.

In private life, Mr. Northcote is greatly esteemed, as a modest, unassuming, virtuous, well informed, and communicative man.

W.

RICHARD

RICHARD WATSON, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF LANDAFF.

THIS liberal minded prelate was born in the village of Eversham, about five miles from Kendal, in the county of Westmoreland, in the year 1737. His father was a clergyman, and master of the free grammar-school in Kendal, where our divine received the whole of his school education, prior to his going to the university of Cambridge, to which he brought with him a good stock of classical learning, a spirit of persevering industry, and a very bad provincial accent, which he retained for a long time. He was admitted of Trinity College, and distinguished, while there, by a close application to his studies, and constantly wearing a coarse mottled Westmoreland coat and blue yarn stockings.

In taking his degrees he stood high among the wranglers, and the suavity of his manners, the regularity of his conduct, and the respectability of his talents, procured him a fellowship and a college tutorship. On the former occasion he was opposed by Mr. Postlethwayte, who was deeply versed in mathematics, but knew nothing of the world. Poor Postlethwayte, with all his skill, could *demonstrate* himself fit only for a small country living, while Watson made his way to a professorship and a mitre. He, indeed, soon obtained the esteem of his own society, and of the university at large, to which a spirited opposition made by him to an improper recommendation of a candidate by the Duke of Grafton greatly contributed. This circumstance redounds to the honour both of Dr. Watson and the Duke, for the latter was so sensible of the propriety of the other's conduct, that he cultivated his acquaintance, and from that time they have been cordial friends.

It was not long after this, that he was elected public professor of Chymistry, though he was then actually ignorant of the first principles of that science. His electors, however, had no reason to repent of their choice, for he soon made up by diligence the want of preparatory acquirements. He passed whole days, and sometimes nights, in the laboratory, assisted by a good practical chymist whose name was Hoffman. In their first experiments, they destroyed numerous retorts, injured their health, endangered their lives, actually blew themselves up, and at length did the same by their workshop. But our professor was not to be intimidated by all these discouraging circumstances. He possessed an indefatigable spirit, which was destined to overcome difficulties.

His chymical character was at last completely established; and his lectures, which were crowded with auditors, acquired him a high reputation. He was next advanced to the *Regius* Professorship of Divinity, on the death of the learned Dr. Rutherford, and about the same time he married.

Dr. Watson very early distinguished himself in the career of politics, by his attachment to those Whig principles which have, until of late, uniformly distinguished Cambridge from her sister university. He chose a critical time to shew off these principles, and to gain himself popularity: this was the year 1776, when the subjects of Government and Civil Liberty were generally discussed. His sermon preached before the University on the anniversary of the Restoration, was printed under the title of "The Principles of the Revolution vindicated;" and attracted a degree of attention exceeded only by Bishop Hoadley's famous sermon on the kingdom of Christ. In the course of the same year, he also published another discourse preached before the university on the anniversary of the King's accession. The publication of these brought on a controversy; but the only piece worth noticing on this occasion was "an Heroic Epistle to Dr. Watson," by the facetious

facetious author of "An Epistle to Sir William Chambers," under the appellation of "Macgregor."

He soon after gave more satisfaction to the religious world, and gained a higher portion of applause from the public at large, by an "Apology for Christianity, in a series of Letters addressed to Edward Gibbon, Esq." This work, though perhaps it is not sufficiently copious, raised the author's reputation very high, both as a controversialist, and a polite writer. The manner in which the divine has treated the deistical historian has been greatly admired by all but incorrigible bigots, and held up as an excellent example for imitation. Mr. Gibbon declined entering into a discussion of the disputed points with the professor; but he wrote him a very polite letter, to which he received as polite an answer. The correspondence has been printed by Lord Sheffield, and it does honour to both parties.

Dr. Watson printed another political sermon, preached before the university of Cambridge, February 4th, 1780, being the day appointed for a general fast, which discourse is of the same complexion as those abovementioned.

In 1781 he published a volume of Chymical Essays, addressed to his pupil the Duke of Rutland. This work was received by the public with such great and deserved approbation, as to encourage the author to give the world, at different times, four additional volumes, all of equal merit with the first.

In the preface to the last volume, he has these remarkable observations: "When I was elected professor of divinity in 1771, I determined to abandon for ever the study of Chymistry, and I did abandon it for several years; but the *veteris vestigia flammæ* still continued to delight me, and at length seduced me from my purpose.

"When I was made a Bishop in 1782, I again determined to quit my favourite pursuit: the volume which I now offer to the public is a sad proof of the imbecillity of my resolution. I have

“ on this day, however, offered a sacrifice to other people’s notions, I confess, rather than to my own opinion of *episcopal decorum*—I have destroyed all my chymical manuscripts.—A prospect of returning health might have persuaded me to pursue this delightful science; but I have now certainly done with it for ever; at least I have taken the most effectual step I could to wean myself from an attachment to it; for with the holy zeal of the idolaters of old, who had been addicted to curious arts—*I have burned my books.*”

At length, Dr. Watson’s merits, and the recommendation of the Duke of Rutland, procured him a seat on the episcopal bench, on the translation of Bishop Barrington from the see of Landaff to Salisbury. This bishopric being poor, he was permitted to hold with it the Archdeaconry of Ely, a Rectory in Leicestershire, and the divinity professorship, to which is annexed the valuable living of Samuelham.

The gratitude of another pupil of Dr. Watson’s is still more memorable. The late Mr. Luther, of Ongar in Essex, at his decease, in 1786, bequeathed to his tutor the sum of 20,000*l.*

The Bishop was hardly warm in his seat, before he brought himself into pretty general notice, as the advocate of ecclesiastical reform, in “a Letter addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury.” In this letter his Lordship stated, with no small force, and with considerable pathos, the hardships of the inferior clergy, and the necessity of an equalisation of church preferments. Though his arguments were conclusive, and though the facts which he stated were incontrovertible, yet many friends to his scheme thought him rather too precipitate and irregular in bringing forward his sentiments on this subject. An address to the metropolitan through the medium of the press, from the junior prelate on the bench, was considered as a mode of proceeding not quite in the strict line of ecclesiastical propriety, nor the best calculated to attain the object in view.

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This letter accordingly drew down on his Lordship some very severe strictures from the pen of Mr. Cumberland, a writer of great powers, but who on this occasion was far from manifesting a commendable temper.

The public curiosity was greatly excited when it was understood that he was appointed to preach before the Lords, January 30, 1783. His discourses at Cambridge were still fresh in every person's remembrance, and therefore somewhat unusual was expected on this occasion. The Abbey was uncommonly crowded; but the Bishop conducted himself with extreme caution, and delivered a sermon admirable in its composition, and very temperate in its sentiments.

In 1786, his Lordship published at Cambridge, "A Collection of Theological Tracts," in six volumes octavo, designed entirely for the use of students in divinity. This collection consists of pieces on the most interesting subjects in sacred literature, by different writers, many of which were become exceeding scarce. Little else is wanting to form such a compilation, but great reading, candour and judgment. These are sufficiently displayed in this edition; and it cannot but prove an inestimable library of divinity to every candidate for holy orders.

At the time of the King's illness, the Bishop voted with those Lords who considered the Prince of Wales as having an absolute right to an unqualified assumption of the Regency. As the see of St. Asaph was then vacant by the death of the worthy Dr. Shipley, some persons were disposed to think that Bishop W. had his eye upon a translation thither. The King, however, recovered, the Regency of course dropt to the ground, and the bishopric of St. Asaph was filled by Dr. Halifax.

In June, 1791, the Bishop delivered a charge to his clergy, in which he took occasion to touch upon the great revolution which had recently taken place in France, and to advert to the state of things at home, chiefly with respect to the condition of the church,

church, and the pretensions of dissenters. Some of his hearers took notes of his Lordship's discourse, copies of which were not only circulated with great industry throughout the diocese, but spread over all parts of the principality, and even reached Lambeth. Alarmed at the intention evidently manifested by this mode of circulation, the Bishop lost no time in publishing a faithful copy of his charge, which completely did away the evil designs of his enemies.

In the course of the present eventful contest, his Lordship has exhibited himself, in general, the steady advocate of pacific measures; and he has made some admirable and very impressive speeches in his place in the house, on the necessity of adopting a conciliatory spirit.

But one of the best services which he ever rendered to the public, was in counteracting the poisonous principles of the author of "The age of Reason," by an "Apology for the Bible, in a series of Letters addressed to the author of that work." 1796. This has doubtless been of infinite service in maintaining the cause of truth; as it is written in a popular manner, and with a dignity of expression and power of argument most admirably adapted to impress the mind with that respectful seriousness which is so necessary to produce a rational conviction.

It is to be lamented, however, that the Bishop has given some advantage to the infidels, by passing over in silence certain parts of the Bible objected to by them. From that silence much has been inferred; and it certainly would have been more noble, and in fact more prudent, to have expressed his free opinion concerning those passages.

At the beginning of the present year, his Lordship printed a very seasonable and animated "Address to the people of Great Britain." In this performance the Bishop waves discussing the merits or demerits of the war, as to its origin. He considers the nation as reduced to the alternative either of

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an absolute submission to the enemy, or a vigorous prosecution of the contest. Preferring the latter to the former, he pleads for great sacrifices, and calls upon his countrymen to make very strenuous exertions.

Every body allowed this address to possess great merit as a composition; but many who have made financial politics their study, conceived that the Bishop had gone out of his depth, while others think, and doubtless with reason, that he has departed from all his former principles.

That such a tract, coming from such a man, should produce replies, is not to be wondered at. The weight of his Lordship's character was well known. His popularity was very great; and those who were adverse to the sentiments which he now expressed, were sensible that they would have a very extensive influence upon the public mind. The prosecution of two of his Lordship's antagonists has inflicted a deadly wound on the liberty of the press, and thus rendered controversy safe only on one side of the question!

The Bishop is a good public speaker; his action is graceful, his voice full and harmonious, and his delivery chaste and correct.

As a writer he is distinguished by a style plain and neat, but strictly pure, nervous and argumentative.

As a bishop his character is most excellent; and as far as his influence extends, he hath been uniformly the patron of merit. His family consists of six children; and his chief residence is Colgarth Park, delightfully situated near the lakes in his native county.

Besides the pieces already mentioned, he hath written: "Richardi Watson, A. M. Coll. Sacr. Sanctæ Trin. Soc. et Chemiæ Professoris in Academia Cantabrigensi Institutionum Chemicarum in prelectionibus Academicis explicatum Pars Metallurgica." 8vo. 1766. "An Essay on the subjects of Chymistry, and their general Divisions." 8vo. 1771.

"A defence

"A Defence of revealed Religion, in two Sermons preached in the cathedral church of Landaff," "A Charge to the Clergy of that diocese, in June, 1795." "Sermons and Tracts," one volume, 8vo; and a "Charge to his Clergy, in 1798."

A. T.

THE HONOURABLE HENRY ERSKINE.

HENRY ERSKINE, the brother of David Earl of Buchan, is supposed to possess even a double portion of his genius. He received, in early youth, the advantage of that liberal and literary education which in Scotland is rarely denied even to the meanest yeoman; and has, till of late, been most solicitously bestowed on the children of nobility. The fortune which he inherited was not sufficient to enable him to bury his talents in frivolous idleness, and he chose the practice of the law for his professional pursuit. He was accordingly admitted, when very young, a member of the Scottish *Faculty of Advocates*, and distinguished himself alike at the bar, in the societies of his companions, and those elegant and fashionable assemblies unto which his high birth and personal accomplishments introduced him, by an unrivalled sprightliness of fancy, and quickness of apprehension. When all contended in wit, and sportive humour, the supreme praise scarcely ever failed to be bestowed on Henry Erskine.

The elocution of the Scottish bar, even then, favoured not a little of the unction of Donald Cargill, or George Whitefield. Young Erskine, in his first pleadings, displayed with an inimitable felicity a certain grace, liveliness, and ease, which needed but to be heard, in order to put to shame those vile compositions which had been before admired. Every thing concurred to promise him a
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most brilliant career. But it was feared, that parts so lively, and success so splendid, might prove fatal, by seducing him into that negligence, and that self-conceit, which, alas! too often blight the richest buds of opening genius. The anxiety of his friends, the invidious rivalry of his competitors, were alike ready to suggest that dissipation, frivolity, or petulant self-applause, must soon expose him to be outstripped in his professional career, by the most sober spirited of his brother-advocates, in the same manner as the hare in the fable is said to have been left behind by the snail. The event, however, proved far otherwise.

He had the good sense to perceive that, in order to excel, he ought to dedicate himself with inflexible ardour and perseverance to the attainment of professional excellence, and acquire by unremitting practice that honourable independence of fortune which was necessary to give due lustre to his talents. In a short time he became an Elder, and a Speaker in the general assembly of the Church of Scotland, the best theatre for deliberative eloquence which his native country affords. He vigilantly seized every occasion for the exercise of his abilities, as a lawyer and a pleader; and soon convinced the world that he was determined to become a steady practitioner.

Having obtained in marriage the only daughter of Mr. Fullerton, a lady of a respectable family, and who brought him a very handsome fortune, that event tended happily to confirm him in those habits of assiduity, for which he had begun before to be distinguished.

Every successive year now increased his employment at the bar, and he was soon accounted, if not the very first, at least in the foremost rank. Eminent as a wit, and an advocate, his political sentiments could not long be a matter of indifference to the circle in which he moved. Like his brother, the Earl of Buchan, he avowed himself a staunch and ardent Whig, and naturally gained the notice

and the friendship of the most illustrious votaries of Whiggism, as well in England as in Scotland.

After the conclusion of the American war, when Charles Fox, along with that great political party of which he was the informing and guiding genius, were, for a short time, masters of the energies of the British government, Henry Erskine was the man whom they chose as the confidential lawyer of their administration in Scotland. They accordingly hastened to appoint him *Lord Advocate*; and so splendid was his reputation as a lawyer, and so liberal his character as a man of integrity, and honour, that the voice even of his political enemies could scarcely refrain from applauding the nomination.

But Fox and his party were quickly driven from the helm; and Erskine was dismissed from his official situation, to make room for one who was, indeed, a very worthy young man, but destitute alike of powerful talents, and juridical experience. This loss, however, could neither degrade the character of Erskine, nor lessen his practice at the bar. He had before been, and he still continued to be, the lawyer, whom, on every great occasion, both parties were anxious to retain as their first counsel.

Upon a vacancy in the office of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, of which he has since been so shamefully bereft, that respectable body, perhaps the most illustrious juridical corporation in Europe, bestowed the office on Henry Erskine; with an eagerness which seemed to demonstrate, that they conferred equal honour on him and themselves by the choice.

Although a man of wit and talents, he has not been so imprudent as to lavish his honourable gains in a careless profusion of expence, instead of accumulating them for a patrimony to his children. Neither did the fatal schism in the Whig party, in consequence of the diversity of sentiments with which the events of the French revolution were beheld

beheld in Britain, betray him into any political inconsistency. On the contrary, he still firmly adhered to those principles of freedom, which Fox and himself had been accustomed to consider as the genuine grounds of the British revolution in 1688.

Since the commencement of the present war, a period, during which the collisions of party-spirit are become more fierce and violent than before, various practices, too mean and dishonourable to be worthy of aught but contemptuous oblivion, have been recurred to, in order to hurt the character and diminish the practice of Henry Erskine, by men who could not win his virtue to their side, and who were desirous to diminish that ascendancy to which they could not aspire in the career of generous emulation. But talents, fortune, and character, such as his, may despise calumny, and smile at the impotence of malice.

LORD CHARLEMONT.

WHEN high rank is united with great virtues, and both are embellished by learning, taste, and talents, we then see man in his proudest form; we overlook or forget all that is weak, frail, and mortal, in human nature, and look up to him as a being of a superior order. Such a character is the Earl of Charlemont; a nobleman, on whom, even in times of the most imminent danger, neither turbulence, faction, nor slander, has dared to cast an aspersions.

Of his Lordship's early life, a great part was spent abroad; charmed with the arts, the climate, and the language of Italy, it was for many years his favourite residence. With the rest of the world, however, he was intimately acquainted; as at every court which a young nobleman generally visits,

sits, he spent more than the usual time. In all, he was respected and beloved; and he has been heard to say, that when he returned home, there was not a country in Europe in which he was not more known, and had not more of those connections which sweeten life, than in his native Ireland!

Home, however, his lordship did at length return, at about the age of thirty, and it is said to have been hastened by a disorder contracted, as is supposed, from poison, administered by the jealousy of a woman with whom he had an amorous intercourse. Of this disorder, the malignity had baffled the efficacy of all the medical skill which his lordship found abroad, and it remained for the honour of an Irish physician, if not radically to remove the disease, at least to alleviate its force, and preserve a life which was to be the ornament and pride of his country. The physician in question was the celebrated Dr. Lucas, a man distinguished, not more by the success of his medical exertions in his lordship's case, than by the zeal and energy which he has displayed as a political writer, and a popular representative.

Having thus recovered a moderate share of health by the skill of this Irish patriot, and prescribed for himself a degree of temperance and strictness of regimen which few men would have had the steadiness to observe, his lordship began to think of an heir. Although accustomed to view beauty in its most fascinating forms amidst the brilliancy of courts, the splendour of wealth, and the attractions of polished manners, he did not seek these qualities in a wife. He married a young lady, the daughter of a provincial clergyman, possessed of good sense, and a most amiable disposition; therefore, better chosen than if recommended by high birth, riches, or beauty: in consequence of this marriage, his lordship has several children, the eldest of whom (Francis William) is Lord Caulfield, a young nobleman of whom it is reasonable to hope, that he will emulate the virtues of his father.

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Lord Charlemont having felt, from his early residence abroad, the mortification of being a stranger in his native country, resolved that his son should have a domestic education. Lord Caulfield was therefore educated at the college of Dublin, where he distinguished himself, not more for the possession of a sound and masculine understanding, than for precocious industry, and mild, though somewhat gloomy, manners.

From the moment in which Lord Charlemont first embarked in public life, he has invariably promoted the best interests of the country. He affected not, however, in any instance, that popularity which follows rather the shewy and insincere professions of the demagogue, than the wise and well-judged measures of him who serves his country more from a motive of duty than a thirst of fame. With him, patriotism was a virtue which he practised for its own sake, and without attention to any consequences, except the approbation of his own mind, and a strict attention to the public welfare.

That his political conduct has uniformly resulted from the purest motives, nothing, perhaps, could more strongly prove, than the manner in which his Borough of Charlemont has been represented. Though his lordship does not possess wealth sufficient to render the septennial receipt of 4000*l.* (the usual price for two mis-representatives!) an object of no importance, yet, in no one instance, has he yielded to the impulse of venality; for he has never sold, to the highest bidder, the office of Legislator for his country! In the representatives of his Borough, his lordship required only talents, and virtue; and it has been his peculiar good fortune to have always selected men eminently possessed of both.

Among those who have represented Charlemont since it fell into his lordship's hands, Mr. Grattan is the most conspicuous. And it was the member for this Borough, who wrought the independence of Ireland. In the House of Peers, his lordship contributed

contributed to that great event, if not by his eloquence, for he is not a public speaker, at least by his vote, his influence, and his example.

These virtues and services of Lord Charlemont were neither unobserved nor unrewarded by the public. He was accordingly raised by the unanimous voice of the people, more fully and faithfully expressed than it had been on any other occasion, to the most honourable situation which it was in their power to bestow, that of commander-in-chief of an army self-appointed, and self-paid, consisting of 80,000 freemen, including all the gentry and the nobility of the kingdom. To this command of the Old Volunteer army of Ireland, he was for several years successively elected; nor did this relation between that extraordinary body of men and his lordship cease, until a difference of political opinion had arisen, which induced him to resign. That difference arose on the question of admitting the Catholics to participate in the power of the state. The idea was first broached in an address from the volunteers of Ulster to his lordship, at a time when they had been reviewed by him in the neighbourhood of Belfast. He in very plain, but very polite and respectful terms, expressed, in his answer, his difference of opinion on that question. A discordance of sentiment, on a point of such moment, must have been fatal to that cordiality of affection which had alone reconciled him to the troublesome, though highly honourable situation to which he had been raised: he therefore shortly afterwards resigned his command; and government having for some time before withdrawn its countenance from the volunteer army, it gradually dwindled into insignificance.

That his lordship was either morally or politically correct, in an opinion which tended to perpetuate political incapacities on account of religious tenets, would perhaps be difficult to prove; but that he acted on that occasion, as on all others, rather from a consciousness of right, than a view to popular applause,

applause, cannot be doubted, for to his popularity nothing at that time could have been so fatal. There was, however, something in his character which disarmed political invective, even while aggravated by religious animosity. The most virulent of those who blamed his conduct seemed to hesitate in calling him a bigot.

Of a reform in the representation his lordship has been long a friend, and was among the first of those noblemen and gentlemen, who, when the question was agitated, and the great difficulty appeared to be, how individuals should be satisfied for the annihilation of their property, made an offer of a voluntary surrender of their boroughs to the public.

On the question of the regency, too, he adopted that side which alone was thought compatible with the independence of Ireland. He was one of those, who, in opposition to the partisans of Mr. Pitt, asserted the right of that kingdom to appoint its own regent; and, as they constituted a majority in the two houses, they accordingly offered the regency to the heir apparent. For this, and some other political offences, he was shortly afterwards removed from the government of the county of Armagh, an office to which he might be almost said to have an hereditary right.

In a mind like that of his lordship, cultivated, vigorous, and pure, error is seldom a plant of perennial growth. The opinion which he so honestly entertained, and so boldly avowed to the volunteer army of 1784, he seems to have since changed for those of a more liberal complexion, as he has since supported the Catholic claim to the elective franchise, which parliament acceded to in 1796, and is at present an advocate for what is called *Catholic emancipation*.

Of that system of coercion which preceded the late insurrection in Ireland, of the burning of villages, hanging their inhabitants, transporting persons suspected without trial, strangling and whipping to extort confession, and billeting the military at
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free quarters in districts in which individuals had been disorderly, his lordship has been uniformly the declared enemy. He, therefore, was one of the very few who supported Lord Moira in his parliamentary reprobation of these measures, and in recommending those of peace and conciliation. Nothing, however, can be more remote from his character, than that of a factious man, or a systematic oppositionist. He has supported Great Britain in the war, merely because Great Britain was engaged in it, without any relation to the abstract merit of the contest; and he has acceded cheerfully to every law, and every measure, which the government thought necessary, against the assault of foreign force or domestic disaffection.

Unexceptionable, however, as Lord Charlemont's political conduct has been, it is not as a politician that he is exclusively entitled to our regard. He is more highly estimable, perhaps, as a man of taste and literature. As a general scholar, he has not his equal in the Irish Peerage. Possessing a respectable knowledge of the learned languages, he is also intimately acquainted with those of modern Europe, particularly the Italian, in which he is an adept. To his love of letters, Ireland owes, in a great measure, the establishment of the only literary society (except the university) which she possesses, namely, the Royal Irish Academy, which was incorporated by royal charter in 1786, and of which his lordship has, since its foundation, been annually elected president. Of this office, he discharges the duties, *con amore*, constantly attending its meetings, unless when ill health prevents, presiding with a father's care over its concerns, and occasionally contributing to fill the pages of its transactions. In these volumes, his lordship has published three essays, which are highly respectable; one on a contested passage in Herodotus; another on an ancient custom at Meteline, with considerations on its origin; and a third on the antiquity of the Woollen manufacture in Ireland, which

which he has proved from some passages in the Italian poets.

These, however, constitute but a small part of what his lordship has written. To some of his friends he has shewn, at various times, materials for larger works. With them, it is to be feared, the public will not be favoured during his life; and they will, probably, be left to the mercy of a posthumous editor.

Among the lovers and the judges of the fine arts, he holds a very conspicuous rank. At his house in Rutland-square, Dublin, is to be seen a most respectable collection of the great masters in painting and sculpture, both ancient and modern; and of his taste in architecture, his temple of Marino, within a couple of miles of the metropolis, is a beautiful specimen.

In parliament he has never been a speaker, he seems to want nerves for an orator, and to be solicitous rather of the pleasures of study, than of those raptures which result from the involuntary bursts of an applauding auditory. In conversation he is communicative, affable, and cheerful, in an extraordinary degree; equally apt to catch as to impart satisfaction: nor is it the frippery of fancy which escapes him; the effusions of his full mind flow like the waters of a deep river, at once placid and majestic, uniform and profound.

Of his time he is remarkably economical; every hour has its allotted occupation, nor is this arrangement varied but on occasions of considerable moment. So regular is he even in his rides, that you might ascertain the time of the day to a minute by the spot on which you find him. His figure is exceedingly venerable, and striking. Upwards of sixty, his long grey hairs, and bending form, give him the appearance of much greater age, while the placidity and strength of his countenance irresistibly impress the idea, that wisdom and virtue have been the companions of his life. It is a remarkable circumstance, that the precarious state
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of his health, since his partial recovery from the disaster of his youth, has made it necessary for him to use the cold bath throughout the year; and, even in the depth of the severest winter, he has not dared to intermit the practice.

HENRY GRATTAN.

HENRY GRATTAN was born in the capital of Ireland, about the year 1751. His father, an eminent barrister, though possessing considerable talents, and deriving a competent share of practice from the good opinion entertained of his skill and integrity by the citizens of Dublin, yet never rose to any high legal situation. The Recordership of the city, a place at that time worth about 600*l. per annum*, and to which the corporation elect, was the only office he ever filled. To wealth, accumulated by the industry or the success of his ancestors, Henry, therefore, could not look; he was accordingly taught early to depend for his future fame and fortune on his own exertions.

At the usual time he was entered a student of Trinity College, Dublin, where he was soon distinguished as the powerful competitor of two class-fellows, whose good fortune and talents have since raised them to the highest situations in the state, Mr. Fitzgibbon, late Chancellor of Ireland, and Mr. Foster, the present Speaker of the House of Commons.

Of four of the most shining characters which the Dublin university has given to the world, it has been observed, that during their residence in that seminary their talents were not exercised, nor their powers known: Mr. Edmund Burke exhibits one memorable instance in behalf of this assertion: but in respect to Mr. G. and his celebrated contemporaries,

aries, that collision which results from a rivalry of acquirements and talents, called forth a full exertion of the mental faculties, and they were therefore distinguished as men possessing first-rate parts, before they were called to exhibit them on the theatre of life. After taking a degree, Mr. G. was, in 1772, called to the Irish bar, and for a few years attended the four courts with an empty bag, and a mind too elastic to be confined to the forms of pleading, and too liberal to be occupied by the pursuits of a mere lawyer.

Disgusted at last with a profession, in which he perceived he would never rise but by habits to which he could not crouch, he retired, not wealthy, but possessing from his father, who was now dead, a patrimony, which, with economy, might have secured him independence. It was not long before he was made known to Lord Charlemont, who had for some time been returned to Ireland. By his Lordship, who has always shewn equal sagacity in discovering and zeal in promoting genius, he was returned to parliament for his borough of Charlemont. Entering into the legislature under such auspices, it was natural to expect that Mr. G. would become the advocate of his then suffering and dependent country. Ireland, indeed, at that time, was in a state of perfect humiliation, being considered merely as a province to the sister country. Her legislature was a petty council, incapable of originating laws; and her courts of justice subordinate to those of England, and incompetent to a final decision: destitute of foreign commerce, from which she had been excluded by British monopoly, her manufactures were crushed by the weight of British competition, and the industry of her people checked from want of encouragement to excite it; in short, discontent, bankruptcy, and wretchedness, covered the face of the country.

To evils of such magnitude, and which the calamities brought on by the unfortunate contest with America greatly aggravated, the narrow policy of
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the times was applying petty palliatives. Subscriptions were collected, to keep the artificers from starving; associations were formed, to wear only domestic manufactures; and parliament itself looked, for some time, no further than to alleviate the pressure of the immediate evil. Mr. G. however, whose mind was formed to embrace something beyond present objects; who was accustomed to trace effects to their causes, and to look forward to future consequences; perceived that the root of those calamities was not a temporary stagnation of trade from the American war, but rather to be found in the unjust restraints imposed by Great Britain on the exertions of the country; and that to attempt their cure by temporary expedients, would be to roll up the stone of Sisyphus.

He was the first, therefore, who had the boldness and the wisdom to urge the legislature to complain of those restraints; his efforts were seconded by the unanimous voice of the country; and such was the efficacy of a political truth, thus urged, and thus supported, that even the whole force of British influence was found unequal to resist it. The Irish legislature adopted, and decreed the sentiment; and after some hesitation on the part of the British legislature, the commerce of Ireland was, in part, opened to her children. A temporary gleam of satisfaction was shed over the country by this *concession*, as it was called, of the British parliament: for so accustomed had the people been to exclusion, to penalties, and restriction, that a relaxation or suspension of any of these was looked on as the conferring of a positive benefit, rather than the cessation of an actual injury.

Mr. G.'s name was now become an object of adoration to the people, and by the volunteer associations, which the dangers of the war had called forth, he was looked up to with peculiar respect. In this state of affairs, the re-action of popularity upon patriotism seemed to impart new energy to his mind.

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Mr. G. continued to exert himself with indefatigable assiduity in the senate, and by leading the mind of the public, and even of the legislature itself, to the consideration of national rights, and the actual political situation of their common country, with respect to England, he was clearing the way for that measure which he meditated—a declaration of the legislature in favour of national independence.

By obtaining freedom of commerce for the country, he had already, indeed, done much toward the attainment of the great object; for he had removed the key-stone of the arch, and thus weakened the cohesion of the whole fabric:—he had taught the people to think, and the legislature to feel its own power; he had introduced a spirit of innovation upon the old system of British domination, and the vigour with which innovations on such systems are opposed, proves their malign efficacy. Mr. G. therefore, who observed with pleasure, no doubt, the operation of those causes on the public mind, endeavoured by an industrious exertion of oratorical powers in the senate, to increase their force, and second their effect. His eloquence, of a cast more warm and animated than either parliament or the people had usually felt, and exerted upon subjects respecting which the human mind is susceptible of the greatest degree of enthusiastic fervor, was gratified by complete success. Directed by a sagacious understanding, which could catch the moment propitious to exertion, and proportion its zeal to its object, his parliamentary speeches taught a subjugated nation to pant for independence; while the public voice, highly animated on this subject, and seconded by the loud assent of 80,000 men in arms, (for to so many did the volunteer associations amount!) kindled, even in the cold bosom of parliament itself, a desire to assert its dignity, and rescue its authority from the gripe of British usurpation.

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Of this sentiment, so novel in an Irish legislature, that had long forgotten the pride of independence—of this energy, which arising from extrinsic circumstances, rather than a native and internal principle of virtue, was therefore likely soon to vanish, when those circumstances should cease to exist.—Mr. G. availed himself; he caught, as he inspired, the generous flame; and by one of those extraordinary displays of impassioned eloquence, to which even the eloquent cannot rise, but when a momentous object seems to furnish adequate powers, he gave rise to the celebrated Declaration, that the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland only, could make laws to bind Ireland, in any case whatsoever.

Mr. Grattan's popularity was now at its *acmé*. The achievement of a nation's independence by an individual, unaided by any force or any influence but that which genius and which truth afford, was considered as the result of talents and of virtue almost above the lot of humanity. The legislature itself seemed for once to participate in the feelings of the people; for in the fervor of admiration, it was proposed that £.100,000 should be voted him, as a mark of approbation.

In its full extent, this proposition was not adopted, for on a subsequent sitting, when the vote was before the Committee, they reduced it to £.50,000; to that amount, however, the grant was confirmed, and Mr. G. actually received the money.

The declaration of rights of the Irish legislature, however unwelcome it must have been to the minister and parliament of England, was received there with that kind of placid acquiescence with which we assent to what is inevitable. A negotiation was immediately instituted between the two nations, which terminated in the repeal of the 6th of Geo. I. the act by which the British Parliament declared its right to bind Ireland by British statutes.

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On the subject of this repeal, a question arose, which suspended, for a considerable time, Mr. G's. popularity. It was contended by Mr. Flood, a gentleman, who, though he did not originate the measure of declaring the legislative independence of the country, yet co-operated to promote it, that as the 6th of Geo. I. was an act only declaratory of a right, asserted by the British Parliament to have been vested in it prior to the enactment of that statute, the "simple repeal" of the statute did not involve a renunciation of the right; and he insisted, that notwithstanding that repeal, Great Britain might, and from her former conduct towards Ireland probably would, resume the exercise of it. He therefore advised the legislature to demand of the British Parliament, a full and explicit renunciation of all right in future to bind Ireland. This opinion was adopted by the people; and carrying with it all the force which reason or experience can give to a proposition in politics, met very powerful support even in both houses of parliament. Mr. Grattan, whose sagacity this objection to a simple repeal had eluded, and who, from a principle of vanity, perhaps, which has its strong hold even in minds of the first class, affected the exclusive honour of originating and conducting the emancipation of his country, applied all his power of reason, of sophistry, and of eloquence, to combat this doctrine of Mr. Flood.

He contended, that the repeal of a declaratory law, accompanied by such circumstances as attended that of this, must be considered, and would by the world be considered, as implying a renunciation of the right; but that, even if it were not so, and that Great Britain should be so unjust and impolitic as to resume the right, when she should recover means to support it by power, an explicit renunciation would be but a slender defence against injustice, supported by force; that in such circumstances, the true security of the people would consist, not in an act of parliament, but in that patriotic energy

energy which would enable them to defend, as it had already enabled them to assert, their independence; and that to force Great Britain, in this her hour of distress, to confess herself an usurper, by an express renunciation of a right which she had exercised, would be as ungenerous to her, as it would be useless to Ireland.

With the people these arguments had no weight, and in the senate they were borne down by the irresistible force of truth and experience, seconded by the powerful and logical eloquence of Mr. Flood. In popular estimation, indeed, Mr. G's character had been falling for some time; it was certain he had received the money which parliament had voted him; and it was insinuated, that for the prompt payment of it, and other considerations, he had engaged with administration to counteract the independence which his former exertions had obtained. But in such insinuations there is the best reason to believe there was no truth. It is, however, certain, that in the contest with Mr. Flood, on the efficiency of a simple repeal, Mr. G. not only reasoned weakly, but that in many instances, connected with that dispute, he acted intemperately. On one occasion particularly, he pronounced a Philippic against Mr. Flood, which was less distinguished by genius and point, than by acerbity and virulence. His antagonist replied, perhaps in a stile too much like that of his opponent. Both parties immediately left the House of Commons, but were prevented from terminating the contest in a duel, by being instantly put under arrest, and bound in a large sum to keep the peace. Mr. Flood, in the course of the next evening, pronounced one of his best speeches, containing a history and defence of his former political life, which had been on the preceding night violently arraigned by Mr. Grattan. Mr. G. endeavoured to reply, but was prevented by the clamours of the house.

Frustrated in the hope of carrying on exclusively to its completion, a revolution (for such it may be called) which he had so successfully and honourably commenced, and finding the tide of popularity now running strong against him, Mr. G. seems for some time to have completely secluded himself from politics. During this interval, he married a lady of the name of Fitzgerald, not, however, as the name would indicate, of the Leinster family, but one who possessed qualities much more valuable than those of high birth or great connexions, for she is a woman of the most angelic disposition, and of whom Mr. G. remains, after a lapse of so many years, what he had been in a very high degree before his marriage, an enamoured lover.

Though Mr. G. during this period, did not take an active part in political affairs, he remained still in parliament, and voted as his conscience bade, sometimes with and sometimes against the minister. It is towards the close of the year 1785, when, under cover of a commercial arrangement, it was supposed a design had been formed by the British ministry to subvert the newly-acquired independence of the Irish Parliament, that we find Mr. G. again alert and vigilant at his post. Of the celebrated proposals which were then offered to the House of Commons in Ireland, by an agent of the crown, and which are still remembered and execrated in that country by the name of "Orde's Propositions," one was, "that the Parliament of Ireland, in consideration of being admitted to participate equally with Great Britain in all commercial advantages, should, from time to time, adopt and enact all such acts of the British Parliament, as should relate to the regulation or management of her commerce, &c." This, it was contended, would sink the Parliament of Ireland into a mere register to the British Legislature. Whether or not this would really be the case, or whether there was any thing unreasonable in stipulating that the country, which was admitted to share in the commerce of another, should adopt

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the same commercial regulations as this latter; it is certain, that this opinion was entertained not only by the public in general, but by some of the ablest men in both houses, and among them by Mr. G. who gave to the whole system the most unqualified and strenuous opposition. This opposition proved successful, the measure was relinquished, and Mr. G. thenceforward continued to resist, with the most zealous and persevering firmness, what he called the principles of the "Old Court;" principles which he looked on as tending to degrade Ireland, by corruption and influence, to the same despicable and miserable state in which she had been reduced previously to the year 1783.

From this period, we find Mr. G. an active leader of the country party in the House of Commons; loved by the people, and dreaded by the cabinet. His popularity, which had so suddenly sunk, on his acceptance of the parliamentary boon, and his support of the simple repeal, had now risen to its former level; and the nation found, that notwithstanding one unfortunate deviation, he was still an upright and independent senator. Among the various measures which now occupied his attention, was the establishment of a provision for the clergy, independent of tythes. For many years the peasantry of the south of Ireland, who were exclusively Catholics, had been discontented, not so much with the payment of tythes to Protestant pastors, as with the rigid and oppressive manner in which they had been collected by proctors and tythefarmers. That portion of the country had been kept by this cause for almost half a century in disturbance; and in some instances it had affected the province of Ulster. Mr. G. proposed a measure which would have removed every discontent, and at the same time have secured a provision for the clergy equal to that which they then possessed, easy and certain to them, and to the peasantry neither oppressive nor unpleasant. This plan was however opposed by the collective influence of the established

established church, and of course rejected by the legislature. Another measure which he proposed to parliament about the same time, viz.—a bill to promote the improvement of barren land, by exempting reclaimed ground from the payment of tythe, for seven years—was but little calculated to restore the favour of the priesthood; they accordingly resisted and defeated the project, and continued thenceforward to hate, if not to calumniate, its author.

The Whig-club had for some time become a political body of considerable consideration. Mr. G. was one of the first, if not the very first member of it, in point of talent and popularity. At his instance it was, that the members of the club, who had been since its institution the advocates of a liberal system, which they considered necessary to the security of the constitution and independence of the country, came now to a resolution, by which they publicly pledged themselves never to accept offices, under any administration, which should not concede certain measures to the people:—these consisted principally of a pension-bill, a bill to make the great officers of the crown responsible for their advice and measures, another to prevent revenue officers from voting at elections, a place-bill, &c. This explicit declaration of a sincere and fixed purpose respecting those essential subjects, gave the society much weight with the public, and enabled them, after a long opposition on the part of administration, to effect their purpose; a pension-bill, a plea-bill, a responsibility-bill, were at last yielded by the court, as concessions of the first importance, though they had for so many years resisted them as unnecessary and unwise.

The celebrity which Mr. G. had attained by his opposition to Mr. Orde's system, and his subsequent exertions in the popular cause, procured for him, in the year 1790, an honourable and easy election, as representative for the metropolis.

During the existence of the parliament which then commenced, there occurred, however, a question, on which Mr. G. and a very considerable proportion of his constituents materially differed; this was, the claim of the Catholics to the elective franchise. From his first entrance into parliament, with a mind as liberal as it was enlightened, he had always been the decided friend of every measure which tended to abolish those political distinctions, which were founded only on a difference of religious tenets; for he conceived that such distinctions had retarded the progress of the country towards civilization and industry.

The corporation of the city of Dublin, on the contrary, prone, by situation and habit, to religious bigotry, looked on the Catholics at once with suspicion and contempt. Enjoying a monopoly of municipal honour and emoluments, by the exclusion of all who professed a different faith from the franchises of the capital, they considered every attempt to restore them to those franchises as an attack on their property, or a violation of their rights. Besides these causes, the administration had, by some recent institutions, obtained a paramount influence in the corporation; and to perpetuate religious distinctions, which had hitherto kept Ireland weak, was still the court policy. This influence, therefore, operating in conjunction with other causes, rendered the municipal officers of Dublin incapable of participating in that increased liberality of sentiment which had now every where begun to dissipate prejudice and dispel bigotry. On the question of admitting the Catholics to the privileges of the constitution, the corporation and Mr. G. accordingly differed; and had not circumstances occurred, which prevented him from becoming again a candidate for the capital, there can be no doubt that he would not have been a second time elected its representative.

The war with France had now taken place; Mr. Grattan approved of it, or rather he considered
Ireland

Ireland as bound with all its might to assist Great Britain when once engaged in the contest. This at least was the opinion he entertained during the short administration of Lord Fitzwilliam; and in this opinion he remained until he found that the continuation of hostilities threatened the empire with ruin, either from the incapacity of those by whom it was conducted, or the murmurs which it occasioned. In Ireland, indeed, discontent had been spreading with incalculable velocity, and deepening as it spread. The pertinacity and insolence with which administration had rejected the petitions of the catholics, and the rapidity and inconsistency with which they granted the prayer of those petitions, at the first suggestion of the British cabinet; the obstinacy with which they refused ever to hear of reform, the advocates of which were blackened with abuse, and calumniated as traitors; the enormous increase of court-influence, by the shameless and wanton increase of sinecure offices, the lavish profusion of titles, and above all, the trick which it was supposed the British cabinet had played off on Ireland, by sending Lord Fitzwilliam with concessions which were revoked when the supply was voted; all these causes had already generated a degree of discontent in the country, of which no instance had been known in former times. The celebrated Society of United Irishmen, who associated (whatever their real principles might have been) under the pretext of reform, derived from these discontents new vigour: they had disseminated their principles through the island, and they were already embraced, by a great portion of the population of the country.

Mr. G. perceiving the danger in which the state was involved by this system of ministers, constantly resisted it with all his power. He was seconded by a small, but active and able opposition, which left no exertion untried to reconcile the court and the country, by advising measures which would have ranged every moderate and good man on the side of

of parliament and the throne, and thus have weakened the republican and French factions which had now become so powerful. These efforts were, unfortunately, not successful. Instead of conciliating, administration continued to exasperate; and scorning to resort to lenitives, applied the most powerful caustics: for every measure of moderation, or concession, which was proposed by Mr. G. and his party, one of severity and coercion was substituted, until the cabinet ultimately arrived at military law, and free quarters! At that critical moment, Mr. G. who could no longer hope, by his presence in the senate, to serve his country, seceded; and at the close of the parliament published a very eloquent and spirited address to his former constituents, accounting for his past conduct, and formally declining to accept of a seat in the legislature.

Such are the leading facts which have marked the life of one who, whatever may be thought of him by his opponents, while the fever of politics continues to agitate the human mind, will have his merits and defects examined fairly by posterity, and, in all probability, be acknowledged by them as a great man.

Of his private life there is but little generally known, because little has occurred in it to interest attention. It has passed on in a smooth manner, marked equally by the practice of every conjugal and domestic virtue. If there be any of his good qualities which verge on the confines of vice, it is his economy, of which it has been asserted that it approaches towards penuriousness, if it does not reach that point. It has been often said, that though he received in early life, from the liberality of his country, a very handsome addition to his patrimony, he never displayed, either in private or public, a munificent disposition. But it should be remembered, that the fortune which Mr. G. obtained then, constituted nearly the whole of his acquisitions: he practised in no profession, he accepted no place, and he soon saw a young family rising around

around him, for which the whole was not a very ample provision; for he has four children; the eldest a boy of fifteen years of age.

In private life, Mr. G. displays manners that are in a high degree pleasing. Wit he seems not to possess, and he has a cast of mind too lofty for humour; but if he does not "set the table in a roar," or dazzle with the radiance of fancy, he diffuses over the convivial hour the mild charms of good-humour, and softens society with unassuming gentleness.

In conversation he appears to great advantage; for, with a mind well stored with useful learning, and conversant on every topic which occurs, he has a felicity of expression which communicates his meaning in the most concise and impressive manner; he is not argumentative, but when an argument is instituted, his opinions are urged with great modesty, but with great strength, and when victor in the contest, he generously relinquishes the field to the vanquished.

Of Mr. G's political opinions, the complexion may be known from the measures which he has supported, and the tenor of his parliamentary conduct. As they have struck the mind of the writer, they appear to be strongly *monarchical*, and *aristocratical* only so far as our constitution requires them to be; at the same time leaning towards a perpetuity of union between the two countries, and yet decidedly averse to the existence of any British influence in Ireland distinct from that which the union of the two crowns on the head of a British prince renders indispensable. That he should therefore, be connected with a society of men whose aim was separation from England, and the establishment of an Irish Republic, seems, in the highest degree, improbable. The lustre of his name, however, has suffered a temporary eclipse; and so short-lived is municipal gratitude, that it has actually been expunged from a city which he has rendered flourishing.

ing*. At the very same time it was struck from the list of privy-counsellors.

As a public speaker, Mr. G. ranks in the highest class. In his speeches there is a grandeur which marks a mind of a superior order, and enforces at once, reverence and admiration. On every subject which he treats, he throws a radiance that enlightens without dazzling; and while it assists the judgment, delights the imagination. His style is always peculiar, for it varies its character with the occasion. At one time close and energetic, it concentrates the force of his argument, and compels conviction; at another, diffuse, lofty and magnificent, it applies itself to every faculty of the mind, charms our fancy, influences our will, and convinces our understanding. At all times his manner is animated with a pleasing warmth, which renders it impossible to hear him without interest; but, on some occasions, he exerts a power which is irresistible. Prostitution, under its influence, forgets for a moment the voice of the minister, and place, pension, and peerage, have but a feeble hold even of the most degenerate.

To the excellence of his style he does not add the graces of action; it is forcible indeed, and sometimes expressive, but it is seldom elegant, and never pleasing. To invective, to which Mr. G. has sometimes deigned to have recourse, his manner is better adapted than to the sedateness of cool disquisition; and yet invective is not that in which he principally excels: he is more fitted by nature, and happily the situation he has filled has more frequently called him, to defend the right of nations, and to pourtray the hopes, the fears, the expectations of a magnanimous people, than to descend to an unworthy contest with individuals; tho'

* "Cork, Sept. 29, 1798.—By order of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Common-Council of the city of Cork, the public are desired to take notice, that the street hitherto named *Grattan-street*, is, in future, to be called *Duncan street*."

when that contest has been instituted, the weapons of Mr. G. have been found sharp, if not polished, and capable of inflicting wounds which refuse to be healed.

SIR WILLIAM SIDNEY SMITH.

THE great Admiral Howard, who lived in the reign of King Henry the eighth, was wont to say, that "a certain portion of madness was necessary to enter into the composition of an English seaman." We know not whether this assertion ought to be admitted in its full extent; yet the fact is, that some of our most celebrated naval characters have obtained renown for deeds which appear to cold-blooded men to favour of desperation, as well as of valour.

It is not our intention to detract from any man's merits, who has been, or is now, engaged in the service of his country, either by sea or land; but we are forced to say, that our admiration is not so much excited by those dazzling exploits which please the populace, as by the more steady and extensive operations of such magnanimous, but prudent commanders, who are rather bent upon general good, than romantic adventures. Each, however, has his portion of merit: and he who hazards his person with alacrity, in behalf of the country for which he fights, must always claim our respect.

Sir William Sidney Smith was born in the metropolis, A. D. 1764. His * father was a captain

* Captain Smith was *aid-de-camp* to Lord George Germaine, at the battle of Minden, and was examined as an evidence on his trial. His testimony on that occasion is said to have saved the life of his protector.

in the army, and his mother the daughter of Mr. Wilkinfon, a merchant of great eminence in the city. This match was fo hostile to Mr. Wilkinfon's sentiments, that he not only difcarded Mrs. Smith in his life-time, but at his death left his whole fortune, which was very confiderable, to his other daughter, the prefent Lady Camelford.

The fubject of the prefent notice was educated under Dr. Knox, at Tunbridge fchool ; and at an early age was put on board a man-of-war, which profeflion he had adopted for himfelf. He rofe rapidly, and at the age of fixteen was fifth lieutenant of the Alcide of feventy-four guns. He was made poft-captain in 1783, at which time the reftoration of peace prevented him from exercifing his active fpirit in the fervice of his country.

When the war broke out between Ruffia and Sweden in the year 1788, Captain Smith obtained permission from the Englifh government to enter into the navy of the latter power, by which he was honoured with a diftinguifhed command.

During this conteft, he gave fuch fatisfaction to the court of Sweden by his important fervices, that the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him ; which, however has not been confirmed by his own fovereign.

On the termination of that war, he returned to his native country, and foon after fet out on his travels through various parts of Europe.

When hoftilities broke out between England and France, he was in Italy ; and on Lord Hood's

Having encountered fome obloquy, in confequence of his zeal, the Duke of Dorfet, who was greatly attached to his younger fon, Lord George, very properly took captain S. into favour ; and, among other gifts, prefented him with a grant of land at the foot of Dover-castle, on which he has built a whimfical-houfe. Some adjoining apartments are excavated from the rock, and the kitchen, &c. are roofed with boats. There is a tower, called " Sir Sydney's look-out ;" and the writer of this has been informed, that his father, who is a ftaunch methodift, has lately erected a chapel there.

getting

getting possession of Toulon, Captain Smith went thither and volunteered on board the British fleet. In the subsequent evacuation of that place, he was entrusted with the dangerous, but important service, of setting fire to the ships, dock-yards, and arsenal, which he performed with such astonishing skill, boldness, and success, as to call forth the warmest encomiums from Lord Hood in his account of that transaction to the admiralty.

On his return to England, he had the command of the Diamond frigate bestowed on him, with which he greatly annoyed the enemy on their own coast; and made several important and valuable captures. He had afterwards some other frigates put under his direction, as commodore; with which squadron he performed some essential services, particularly in attacking a French convoy at Herqui, where he landed and demolished the fortifications. At one time Sir Sydney went with his single frigate into Brest harbour, and having reconnoitred the state of the enemy's ships, came out to sea without suspicion. He was enabled to do this, by the very fluent manner with which he speaks the French language.

At length, however, his enterprising spirit, unfortunately, brought him into a very disagreeable situation. Being off Havre-de-Grace, April 18, 1796, he captured an armed vessel in the outer harbour; but the tide making strong up the Seine, she was driven by the force of the current near the forts. When night came on, Sir Sydney, who was determined not to lose his prize, manned and armed his small craft, and went with them to bring her off. He succeeded in boarding her, and was taking her down the river, when an alarm was given, and several gun-boats proceeded to cut the vessel off. After an obstinate resistance, Sir Sydney was at length taken, together with sixteen of his crew, and three of his officers.

The French were happy at having gained possession of one who had been so great an eye-sore to them,

them, and conveyed him to the capital, where he was kept in close confinement, without ever being suffered to be at large upon his parole. The English government, desirous of his release, sent over Captain Bergeret, commander of *La Virginie*, in July following, to be exchanged for him; but the directory refusing to accede to terms, the French captain returned, saying, "he preferred death to dishonour." It was actually one time in contemplation to try Sir Sydney as a spy and incendiary, to which the directory were led in consequence of his conduct at Toulon!

After a long and most rigid confinement, he at length effected his escape, April 24, 1798, from Paris, and arrived in London May 6th following. The manner in which this occurred, was represented in the papers as most extraordinary, and little short of miraculous. It was stated, that as the officers were conveying him from one prison to another, a crowd in the street occasioned the carriage to stop, on which some one opened the door, and drew Sir Sydney out, who passed unmolested through the people, and got into the suburbs; whence, by a circuitous course, with an emigrant gentleman, he arrived on the sea-coast, where they took to an open boat; and after being at sea for some considerable time, were taken up by a British frigate, which landed him and his companions in Old England. It is not unlikely that the French government took this curious method of releasing him; for it is hardly within the line of probability that such a man should have escaped from his keepers in one of the public streets of Paris, and that too in open day, without the connivance of persons of power.

His being taken at first was the effect of his own imprudence, for certainly there were officers in his ship competent enough to the service of boarding and bringing away a paltry privateer, without the necessity of the captain's going in person. Sir Sydney

Sydney has since been appointed to the command of *Le Tigre*, a ship of 80 guns, taken from the French; and in which he has just sailed to the Mediterranean.

K. I.

THE REV. THOMAS HAWEIS, LL.D.
AND M.D.

THIS gentleman is entitled to a place in our collection, as well on account of his respectability as a man of letters, as his being now at the head of that numerous and highly distinguished class of Christians, commonly called the Calvinistical Methodists.

Dr. Haweis is a native of Truro in Cornwall, and was educated at the free grammar-school in that town, where he had for his contemporary the celebrated Samuel Foote, commonly called the English Aristophanes. After receiving a good classical education, he was put apprentice to an eminent surgeon and apothecary in his native place, and served his time with great credit, on account of his fidelity and application.

Mr. Samuel Walker was at that time curate of Truro, and young Mr. Haweis was so affected with the preaching and character of that exemplary man, that his whole mind became impressed with the love of religion, and the desire of being a minister of the gospel. His friends were not willing to cross his inclinations, and he was therefore permitted to go to the University of Oxford, where he was entered of Magdalen-Hall, and in due course took his degree of LL.B.

Soon after his being admitted to holy orders, he became distinguished as a popular preacher, particularly at Oxford, where he delivered a set of discourses

discourses, which, in 1760 he published, under the title of "Evangelical Sermons." Not long after he became assistant to Mr. Madan, at the chapel of the Lock-hospital, and about the same time was appointed chaplain to the Countess of Huntingdon.

While he officiated at the Lock chapel, a circumstance occurred which made a considerable noise at the time, and brought upon our divine, as well as his friends, much unmerited odium. A gentleman, who usually attended that place of worship, informed Mr. Madan, that he had a living in his gift, which he wished to bestow upon some minister of evangelical sentiments. Mr. Madan recommended Mr. Haweis, who was surprized at this generosity in a stranger. Some time after his being inducted to the living of Aldwinkle, in Northamptonshire, and which he now holds, the patron thought proper to make a demand upon him for the presentation. The matter got into print, the public were much prejudiced against the body of Christians to whom Mr. H. belonged, exclaimed vehemently against him for his conduct, as well as that of his colleague, Mr. Madan. Time, however, has destroyed this prejudice, and we believe there is no person so uncandid, at present, as to admit a thought to his disadvantage, in consequence of this business.

About that period, he published a very useful and judicious commentary upon the scriptures, entitled, "The Evangelical Expositor," in 3 vols. folio.

Mr. H. continued to have the chief management of Lady Huntingdon's extensive concerns until her death, when he found himself, by her will, one of the principal trustees of her various chapels in town and country. In 1795 the missionary society commenced, formed upon a plan and scale certainly more adequate to the object, more promising in its appearance, and, as far as it has yet gone, more prosperous in its operation, than any other that can be mentioned. This institution equally
admits

admits churchmen and dissenters. It is marked, indeed, only by what are called the evangelical sentiments : it pays no regard to differences of opinion on the inferior questions of church government, or the manner of public worship ; but it admits no missionaries except such as are firmly grounded in the essential doctrines of christianity, particularly the divinity of Christ, and the atonement by his death.

At the first public meeting of this society, held at Spa-fields chapel, Mr. H. preached a very affecting and masterly sermon on the occasion ; and at a subsequent one, he read a memorial, in which he examined the subject with the greatest precision and accuracy, and recommended strongly that the first mission should be to the Friendly Islands, in the South-Sea, which measure was adopted. This sermon and memorial were printed in the collection of the society's papers.

In the same year he obtained, from one of the Scotch universities, the degree of doctor of physic ; and lest his motives for so doing should be misunderstood, it may be proper to say, that he is one of the principal persons concerned in the Samaritan society, the object of which is to visit poor sick people at their own habitations. Now, as he was originally brought up to the practice of medicine, there was a propriety in his taking a doctor's degree in that faculty, to render him competent to give his advice, and to attend consultations, in the way of benevolence.

In 1797, the doctor published the life of the eminent and popular divine, Mr. Romaine. This performance does great credit to his talents as a biographer.

The missionary concerns seem to engross his principal attention ; and, without doubt, that large and highly honourable society could not have a more able, indefatigable, or faithful person at its head than Dr. H. The accounts received from the missionaries at the Sandwich-islands are very
flattering

flattering to those who have formed strong expectations respecting this new attempt to propagate christianity in heathen lands. We understand that the society is so opulent, in respect to finances, that it is about to enlarge its sphere of operation; and that endeavours will be made by it, to carry civilization and religion into other dark and uncultivated regions.

Dr. H. is still an eloquent and powerful preacher. His style is perspicuous and elegant. He never descends to that coarse method of illustration made use of by some popular preachers, nor does he entertain his auditory with quaint witticisms and ridiculous anecdotes. He has a clear method of reasoning, and seldom launches into the wilderness of declamation. As a writer, he possesses great merit, on account of an elegant style, which is at once pious and fervid.

We cannot close this article, however, without expressing our astonishment and concern, that a man of Dr. Haweis's judgment should be so far imposed upon, as to countenance raw youths, who, without education, or any other qualification than mere boldness, and a certain forward conceit of their abilities, ascend the pulpit, and deliver a strange kind of jargon to their hearers. Is it because the doctor wishes to be considered as the bishop of his sect, that he commissions, as it were, these unfledged theologians to go out and preach the gospel of Christ? As a divine, and a respectable one, too, of the church of England, we wish he would well consider the evil which must accrue, not merely to the ecclesiastical establishment, but to the interests of the christian church at large, by the presumption of boys and illiterate mechanics, in thus encroaching upon the ministerial office. It is this which encreases the number of infidels, and gives them cause to ridicule religion. The mistakes of an ignorant zealot are more pernicious to the

the interests of christianity, than the most daring attacks of avowed sceptics.*

K. I.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY DUNDAS,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT, &c.

HENRY DUNDAS is descended from a younger branch of a † family, long eminent among the petty Barons of Lothian. During the greater part of the last century his immediate ancestors were distinguished as the most able advocates at the Scottish bar, and rose to the highest offices and richest emoluments which the law can bestow.

His father, even at an early period of his career, was pronounced by President Dalrymple, to have outshone all the competitors of his own day, in the lists of juridical contest. His eldest brother, the late Lord President Dundas, after shining as the first lawyer at the bar, was exalted to the bench, amidst the shouts of general approbation; and it is still remembered, with what august dignity, what a force and clearness of argument, he administered justice for a long series of years, at the head of the supreme civil court of Scotland.

Henry, being a younger son, by a second marriage, was destined to seek his fortune in some professional pursuit, and he very naturally chose that in which his family had been so successful. At an early period of life, he was called to the Scottish bar, and quickly attained some distinction among

* The extreme youth of some of the missionaries has given rise to a ridiculous story, about each of them having been presented with three beautiful young women, as concubines, on their arrival at the place of their destination, &c. &c.

† The Dundasses of Arncliffe.

the

the junior advocates. In compliance with the custom of the young Scottish lawyers, he attempted to distinguish himself, by adopting the popular eloquence of the general assembly of the church of Scotland, of which he became a member. With very flattering success, he declaimed on the subject of patronage; disputed about forms and precedents; and strove sometimes to allay, sometimes to excite, those storms to which even that venerable body is now and then subject.

A fortunate marriage with the heiress of Melville, soon made him a considerable landholder, and his success at the bar augmented daily. If his pleadings were deficient in grace, elegance and correctness, and his speeches unadorned by those happy allusions which polite literature can alone furnish; they were, at least, rich in that most valuable ingredient common sense, enlivened with wit, pregnant with sound juridical discrimination, and accompanied with apparent sincerity and much honest frankness of manner.

In the intercourse of private life, he was amiable, convivial, no foe to dissipation, but of a spirit incapable of descending to any of the mean and ungenerous vices. In good company he would drink deep; and in affairs of gallantry, he is reported to have occasionally indulged, even to excess. The domestic misfortune that ensued is known to all the world, and it might appear indelicate here to dwell upon the subject.

One of the first admirers of Mr. Dundas's talents in early life, was the late *Lord Kames*, who dedicated to him his excellent work, entitled "*Principles of Equity*;" and on that occasion anticipated his future success.

Neither the gaities of dissipation, nor the chagrin attendant on a family misfortune, could divert Mr. Dundas from vigorously pursuing that career of professional success which had opened before him. He rapidly attained the rank of one of the first lawyers at the Scottish bar; and his own merits,

rits, added to the influence of his family, soon recommended him to the notice of the crown: in fine, he became, in a short time, Lord Advocate for Scotland; and neither his talents nor his juridical skill were deemed unworthy of the office.

It had been usual with his predecessors, to procure a seat in the British House of Commons; and Mr. Dundas also contrived to get a niche at the back of the Treasury-bench. His pronunciation and phraseology were so replete with the peculiarities of the northern dialect, which has not yet ceased to prevail at the Scottish bar, as to excite a degree of ridicule against his speeches in the senate, which would have proved unfavourable to the success of almost any other person. But Mr. Dundas was not to be daunted by common obstacles. He had enough of the lawyer about him to qualify him for legislative business, without his mind being narrowed by pedantry or his eloquence too finically cast after that model which is peculiarly fitted to the bar, but becomes tedious, and even ridiculous, amidst national deliberations. He was quickly able to make himself master of all the *forms* of public business, a species of knowledge so dry, so difficult, so infinitely useful in parliament, so utterly useless every where else. In a short time, he took an active part in every debate, and possessed great advantage, by utterly despising that primness, preciseness, and rigour of morality, which teaches man to embrace *the right*, in opposition to *the expedient*. Nor did he ever affect to aspire to that purity of patriotism, which refuses to connect self-interest with duty. He thus speedily obtained an almost unrivalled pre-eminence; the artifices, the negotiations, the masterly over-reachings of political intrigue, were some of the qualifications which soon appeared to compose the public character of Henry Dundas: and it must be owned, they would not be ill-fitted, in a degenerate age, to conduct him to eminence.

The

The extent of dominion, the immense wealth, and the great political establishments of the East-India Company in Asia, had about this time begun to appear too great for a simple commercial corporation. The amazing fortunes acquired by their servants, had also provoked the most jealous enquiries into the arts by which such opulence could be so rapidly accumulated, and oriental influence was but too plainly discovered in the very bosom of the legislature. Mr. D. soon perceived, that a member of the House of Commons might gain much by turning his attention to the affairs of India which came before that house. In the case of Rumbold and some others, he showed himself to be unequalled in tracing the detail of Asiatic delinquency. In the public revolutions that speedily ensued, he was eagerly courted by all parties; and was generally allowed to be deserving of any of the primary places in the government. His enemies have said, that, being then a needy political adventurer, he found it necessary to choose his side, from a regard to personal interest: and that the laxity of his principles rendered him sufficiently ready to change his party, on the approach of ill fortune. Now the man of North; now the man of Fox; he found himself at last the fast friend, the ministerial coadjutor, and, as they say, the convivial tutor of Mr. PITT.

Mr. Dundas's alliance with the last of these, fixed him in the rich office of Treasurer to the Navy; and during the infancy of Mr. P.'s administration, his counsels and parliamentary services tended not a little to ensure its stability. In short, all the measures of the British government since the year 1782, have, in a great degree, been directed, or at least influenced, by him.

Since he attained an official employment in the administration, Mr. Dundas has enjoyed one peculiar advantage, which is rather of a singular sort—that of never having attained the reputation of political integrity. Mr. Pitt, and other men who
have

have used the ladder of patriotism in scaling the heights of ministerial power, on being obliged to abandon those popular principles which helped them to ascend, have, by their apostacy, provoked the abhorrence of the people, by whom they were once adored. But this great northern commoner, having never obtained much credit with the world in this respect, has rather risen than fallen in the estimation of his country, during the course of his administration.

Of all the measures that have lately occurred, there is, perhaps, no one which will be more unfavourably viewed by the candid and benevolent in future times, than the commencement of the present hostilities with France. But, whatever may be said of the merits or demerits of those ministerial arts which engaged Britain in the contest, it must be confessed, that in many of the measures which the war-minister is supposed to have suggested, such as that for the internal defence of the country, there appears much of that vigilance, energy, and vigour, which we have been forced to admire in the revolutionary rulers of the continent.

Mr. Dundas has also had the good fortune to obtain the confidence of the Dukes of Buccleugh, Gordon, and Lord Hopeton, and so many of the other leading peers and landholders of the North, that it would not be easy to find another ministerial director of Scottish affairs, whose agency would be equally acceptable to the great people of that country.

His personal friends, who are numerous, and doubtless the best judges of his real character, are greatly attached to him. They consider him as the only practical man in the cabinet, and think that either his retreat, or his death, would be attended with the most melancholy events on that part of the nation.

On the other hand, his enemies, who are implacable, as considering him the author of all our present

present calamities, and the accomplice of our former ones during the American war, entertain very different sentiments. The very mildest of them assert, that the best wish that can be breathed, in favour of him or his country, is, either that he may be enabled quickly to retire from the toils of his political career, or be speedily called, by Divine Providence, to the enjoyment of another and a better world.

The few who are of no party may consider him as an honest and respectable private character, and as an active, zealous, and loyal statesman.

ARTHUR

ARTHUR WOLFE,

BARON KILWARDEN,

Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench in Ireland.

THIS gentleman was educated in the university of Dublin, and was called to the Irish bar in 1766. He was soon appointed a king's counsel, and by very laborious industry in his profession, was making way to wealth and legal character, when, in consequence of a high opinion generally entertained of his talents, he was introduced into parliament by Lord Tyrone. Though Mr. Wolfe, from his political outset in life, was a staunch friend to the administration of the day, it was yet so late as the year 1787 before he mounted the first step of the ladder to the bench, by being appointed his Majesty's Solicitor-general.— This we suppose was owing to the more important services of other candidates, for in zeal he was inferior to none.

His next advancement followed close on the heels of the former, being nominated Attorney-general in 1789, on the promotion of Mr. Fitzgibbon to the court of Chancery. In this situation it might have been expected his parliamentary talents would have had fair and ample room for display. Unfortunately for him, however, he succeeded a man whose powers of mind, senatorial courage, and skill in doing the "king's business," were

were of such a superior cast, that he suffered by the comparison.

There was, however, a degree of candour and openness in Mr. W's manner, which entitled him to esteem and praise; though these very qualities, perhaps, disqualified him from appearing to great advantage in his official character. This, although it was not invariably apparent, secured for him many friends, even in the opposition; and those who did not approve the *law officer* of the crown, yet respected the *man*.

In June last he was raised to the peerage, and to the bench on the death of Lord Chief Justice Clonmel. As a speaker, his voice is strong and deep; but it is neither mellow nor capable of much variety. His action is that which is generally found to distinguish the bar-pleader; and even on the most momentous and animating subjects, he seemed unable to disengage himself from professional habits.

In private life, his Lordship has the high character of being a steady friend, and an honest man. As a companion he is less valuable, his manners being rather of a sombre and austere complexion, while the excellence of his mind consists rather in the strength of his understanding than in the quickness of wit or the vivacity of imagination.

MR. CURRAN.

OF all the opinions which have obtained a general currency, without being either founded in truth or sanctioned by experience, there are none, perhaps,

perhaps, which have been so widely circulated as those by which we are taught to believe, that the study of law is adverse to the operations of genius, and that a lively imagination cannot be fettered to professional pursuits; that to be learned, a man must be dull, and that wit cannot be possessed but to the exclusion of industry.

Among the many examples which might be adduced from antiquity, or exhibited in modern times, to prove the futility of this dangerous conceit, Mr. Curran is not the least striking. No man has acquired higher reputation for those powers which delight and captivate the fancy, touch the springs of passion, elicit tears from the softness of sensibility, or extort from gravity itself the roar of laughter; yet has the assiduous industry and laborious exertions of this gentleman raised him from the humblest walk of life, in which his birth had placed him, to the first rank, if not to the first place, at the Irish bar. He has not, indeed, attained high official situations, or risen to those honours which are oftener the reward of judicious politics, than of professional ability; but he has acquired that which is a much stronger proof both of industry and of talent—the uncontested title of being the first advocate in his country.

Mr. Curran is about fifty years of age. He was born in the county of Cork, of parents who were undistinguished by wealth or situation; who had neither a fortune by which they could have enabled the son to live independently, nor connexions by which they could advance him to a profession. They were, however, capable of giving him the rudiments of a liberal education, and that seems to be the only advantage which he derived from his family. Having qualified himself for the university, he entered in the only character in which his circumstances enabled him to appear, that of a *sizar* in the college of Dublin; a situation of which the emoluments are very trivial, while the marks of inferiority which distinguish it from that of the other

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students

Students are of the most mortifying kind. The sizers have, indeed, their tuition free of expence; but they are obliged to keep the rolls of their tutors, and attend to the weekly distribution of the fines and punishments of the pupils. They have also their commons *gratis*, but they dine only on the fragments of the fellows' table, and are compellible to discharge, in the dining-hall, several menial services.

In this situation did Mr. C. pass his first year at the university; nor did he appear, in point of pecuniary circumstances, to stand at the head even of this humble class. It is a fact, that the man who possessed powers that could mould the heart, charm the imagination, and guide the judgment of a senate or of a court, was often destitute of a whole coat!

At the usual time (two years after entrance) he obtained a scholarship; by which, and by the emoluments arising from some petty offices generally bestowed on scholars, he emerged from the distress in which he had been hitherto involved. The remainder of his college career is not marked by any peculiar circumstances; he obtained the usual honours with which the policy of the university rewards industry and talents, and is said to have made some progress in reading the laborious course which is prescribed for fellowship candidates; but whether disgusted with the drudgery, or deterred by the magnitude of the undertaking, he soon desisted from the pursuit, and turned his attention to the bar.

Previously to his becoming a student in the Inns of Court in London, Mr. Curran married a lady of his own country. This match appears to have been founded in inclination, for she did not bring him a fortune sufficient to compensate the inconveniences into which such a premature connexion must have thrown him. Of the means by which he was enabled to support himself and wife, during his studies in England, and afterwards to defray the

the expence of his call to the bar, nothing certain is known; it is natural to suppose, however, that with talents like his, it would not be difficult to procure a livelihood by his literary exertions. But whatever might have been the mode by which his finances were supplied, it is certain that when he first came to the bar, he was in extreme poverty. He resided in Kevin-street, Dublin, a place occupied entirely by the lowest class of people, and which, in point of *gentility*, is on a level with the least reputable part of Westminster.

Mrs. Curran had now brought him a child; and being unable to indulge in the practice so common in Ireland, of sending their children to be nursed abroad, she was obliged to undergo the labour of discharging at once the duties of nurse, housewife, and cook. About this time he became a frequenter of a convivial society, originally formed by some young Barristers, and called the *Monks of the Screw*. Although the members of this institution were merry, they were poor; the object of their meetings was to forget, in good fellowship, the cares of life, and relax the mind from the intenseness of legal studies. The devotion of the Monks, however, was promoted by humbler beverage than the juice of the grape, and their temple was nothing more than an upper room in a Kevin-street ale-house. Poor as such a society must have been, the circumstances of Mr. Curran were so much more humble, that they were forwarded by his connection even with it. As the club affected to be *select*, it became necessary at length that they should have an apartment to themselves; they therefore engaged one at a certain rent, and Mr. Curran was complimented with the use of it, for the residence of himself and his family, except only during those evenings on which the members assembled. He must have been poor, indeed, who lodged in such a mansion!

Mr. Curran was not the only man of talents, who at that time belonged to this society, and

whom a subsequent display of genius, and of learning, raised to eminence. The present Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer, Lord Yelverton, the early intimate and friend of Curran, was one of its original members. Though more fortunate than him in his political, as well as forensic pursuits, the connexion first formed and cemented between them in the poverty of their early years (for Lord Yelverton, like Curran, had to struggle with the difficulties of a narrow fortune), has continued through every vicissitude of succeeding life, not only unbroken but in full strength.

That learning and talents are often enabled to raise themselves into notice, without the fortunate co-operation of extrinsic circumstances, is an observation which has been often exemplified in every profession; but, perhaps, more frequently in that of the law, than any other. Our young barrister, with qualities which are as likely to strike at first sight, as those possessed by any of his contemporaries, remained, however, for some time at the bar entirely unnoticed. The attention of the public was turned toward him, for the first time, in rather a singular way.

He had been engaged as agent by one of the candidates at a contested election, and in the course of the poll, it became necessary for him to make objections to a vote proffered by the adverse party, which he did in that strong and sarcastic manner for which he is so remarkable. His antagonist, a man of rude and overbearing manners, *felt* the pungency of his wit, and not immediately recognising the Barrister, under a shabby coat, and a mean appearance, (for nature has not been very favourable in external decorations,) he applied to him some very gross epithets. With more spirit, perhaps, than decorum, Mr. Curran leaped from his seat, seized him by the collar, and was prevented only by the interposition of the by-standers from chastising him on the spot. He, however, was not precluded from asserting his independance in that way, which could alone

alone he tolerated in the presence of a magistrate, he, therefore, in a few pithy sentences, disclosed his *mind* and his *character*; his antagonist had generosity enough to acknowledge his error, and apologised to Mr. Curran for the consequences of his mistake; nay, instead of resenting the violence with which he had repelled the insult, he granted him his friendship, and by his recommendation and patronage very essentially promoted his future interests.

From that period he began to rise rapidly. Within less than six months he quitted his gratuitous lodgings in Kevin-street, and removed nearer to the more reputable part of the town. Mrs. Curran no longer dishonoured her lord's circumstances, by appearing in the discharge of those domestic offices which are usually performed by deputy; nay, in less than a year, the rising prosperity of the family was visible in the luxury of a one-horse chair! Merit was now finding its proper level, and, in this instance at least, we no longer behold great learning and uncommon genius struggling with adversity, or sullied in the estimation of vulgar minds, by an undeserved poverty.

Within two or three years more, we find Mr. Curran seated in the House of Commons, and seconding, with much sportive humour, every effort of the popular party for the emancipation of the country, and the establishment of its commercial freedom and political independence.

During the arduous and interesting period in which Mr. Fitzgibbon filled the office of Attorney-general, he was one of the leading men in opposition, and of course came into frequent collision with that dogmatical and haughty lawyer. The high tone of defiance on legal or constitutional questions, with which the Attorney-general endeavoured to overbear his opponents, was more frequently ridiculed by the wit, than combated by the arguments of Mr. Curran; if in this mode of combat, he did not always repel the blow, he at least evaded

evaded its force; and though he could not on every occasion boast of victory, he at least escaped defeat. Of one of these contests, the issue was more serious; it produced a duel, in which Mr. C. was the challenger, but which happily was attended with no injury to either party.

While Mr. Curran was thus successfully attentive to business, he did not suffer opportunities of pleasure to pass by him unenjoyed. He was naturally, indeed, a man of uncommon gaiety; possessing an exquisite ear for music, and being himself no ordinary performer on the *forte piano*, it was not strange that the Circe-like allurements of Mrs. Billington should have enchanted him for a time.

Although Mr. Curran has been usually considered a man of gallantry, he enjoys an uninterrupted claim to the character of a good father. He has one son, who is now (1798) about to be called to the bar, and two daughters; to the education of all these he has paid the most affectionate attention.

It has been already observed, that, in his parliamentary character, he has always been attached to the popular cause. Indeed from his outset in life, he has been a *steady* friend to the legislative independence, to free commerce, and a reform in the representation of Ireland. He has uniformly declared against the war with France, and he has combated, with unremitted vigour, during five years, the coercive system which has been pursued in Ireland. Finding the inefficacy of that opposition, he has withdrawn, along with many of those with whom he had co-operated, from the House of Commons, and is now known to the public only as an advocate. In this capacity he has lately defended many of his unfortunate countrymen; and is said to be about to retire for a time, and perhaps for ever, from his native country.

As a lawyer Mr. Curran has not particularly distinguished himself, by the extent of his knowledge or the depth of his researches: he stands, in this respect only, on an equality with his competitors;
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it is as an advocate that he outstrips them. Indeed, in this character, he has not, perhaps, his equal in the empire. With Mr. Erskine he has been frequently compared; but in the opinion of some who have long admired, and attentively considered the respective excellencies of each, the latter holds only a second place.

Mr. Erskine is an acute, grave, laborious, and frequently an eloquent pleader; he turns the bright side of his client's case to full view, urges its strong parts with the force of a masculine understanding, and covers its weakness with very ingenious sophistry; but the jury still remember that Mr. Erskine is an advocate, and are on their guard against his arts.

Mr. Curran, while he displays as much acuteness as Mr. E. gets nearer to the heart and passions of his auditors; and by the ardour and animation of an eloquence neither fictitious nor forced, excludes every feeling and every thought but those which he wishes to excite. In the examination of witnesses, too, Mr. Curran is eminently powerful. In his manner he resembles Mr. Garrow, but perhaps excels even that gentleman in probing a rotten cause to the bottom, in eliciting truth from prevarication, and touching the secret strings that actuate the human heart.

Mr. Curran's parliamentary speeches seldom possess the excellence which has marked his professional defences. They display much less of the *mens divini*; they are irregular, and desultory, and seem to be rather the play of his mind than its serious exertion. They, however, abound with admirable strokes of invective, and irony, and though they assist but little in guiding decision, on the point discussed, yet produce a good effect, by holding up political profligacy and corruption to contempt and detestation.

Of classical learning Mr. Curran seems to have early laid in a good store; his allusions to the Roman poets are frequent, and his quotations from them are prompt and happy. It is a curious circumstance, that to study the Latin classics, and
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commit to memory remarkable passages, formed a part of Mr. Curran's preparation for the bar; and that he continues, from his experience of its utility, to recommend his practice to the young student of the municipal law.

On the score of person, Mr. Curran owes but little to nature. His stature is low, his figure meagre and ill-formed, and his whole appearance far from being prepossessing. He has, however, an eye which emits the fire of genius, and is admirably calculated to transmit either the scintillations of fancy, or that deep pathos of the heart, which he not only feels himself, but can so powerfully excite in others. Of dress he has always been remarkably, perhaps, culpably negligent; for he has often played *Cicero* in the senate, in the garb of *Scrub*!

LORD MONBODDO.

JAMES BURNET is descended from an ancient family in Aberdeenshire, and being heir to a small fortune, studied the Scotch law, and was called to the bar, or, in other words, became an *advocate* in that country.

In this situation he acquired considerable celebrity, and was employed as counsel in two causes, which engaged the attention of the public more than any brought before a Scottish tribunal in the course of a century. One of these was the great question of literary property; the other the Douglas cause. In the course of the latter he was employed to go to Paris, in order to arrange the necessary papers for the investigation of so intricate an affair.

While in that capital he procured an account of a savage girl, who had been discovered wild in the woods of Champagne, and actually went to see her; for this was a subject intimately connected with his favourite pursuit.

In 1797, Mr. Burnet was appointed one of the Lords of Session in Scotland, when, according to the

Lord Monboddo has, however, been better known to the world as a literary man, than either as a pleader or a judge. His first publication was a "Dissertation on the Origin and Progress of Language," in six volumes, 8vo. The investigation of the origin of language, had been in vain attempted by many of the learned among the ancients, who certainly possessed materials of which we are deprived. Yet the moderns have engaged in this pursuit with much ardour; and in our time Bishop Warburton and Lord Monboddo, both men of singular acquirements, have thought deeply, and written profoundly, on the subject. After the most extensive researches, they, however, have not been able to inform us how or when alphabetical writing was first invented; but they have deserved the thanks of the curious, by *showing how* it might have been discovered and introduced. The excellence of this art is so conspicuous, that many learned men have conceived it to be an immediate communication from the Deity; and Mr. Gilbert Wakefield has written an ingenious essay on this side of the question, which has been thought worthy of a place in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; but both the judge and the bishop have shewn, not only the possibility, but the probability, that we owe this grand effort of human skill to the genius of Egypt; and this opinion has been greatly strengthened by the ingenious labours of governor Pownall.

His lordship is also author of another work, in five volumes, quarto, called "Ancient Metaphysics;" a performance remarkable for the surprizing mixture of penetration and genius, with what, in the eyes of some, appears to be the most absurd whim

whim and conceit, the attempt to prove that the *ourang outang* is a class of the human species; and that the want of speech is merely accidental: this has afforded much sport, both to the wits and critics of the age. Lord Monboddo has also endeavoured to establish the existence of mermaids! yet, notwithstanding these singularities, the work is a truly ingenious performance, and will long ensure a place on the shelves of the learned.

His lordship is, at one and the same time, an excellent Greek scholar, and a true christian philosopher. He is ingenious and liberal in his opinions, and in his conduct as a judge, never suffers himself to be swayed by either party or family connexions. At his house in Edinburgh, he is extremely hospitable; and receives with politeness, all literary strangers who visit that city. He imitates the ancients in bathing and exercise, and has attained to a very great age without any of those failures, either of mind or body, which are the usual attendants on extreme age. He was formerly accustomed to repair yearly to London, and generally made the journey on horseback; it need scarcely be added, that in all his peregrinations, he was received with unbounded welcome by the literary men of the age.

THE HON. DAINES BARRINGTON

IS brother to the late Lord Barrington, the present Bishop of Durham, and also to Admiral Barrington.

This gentleman was bred to the law, a profession in which he never made any very conspicuous figure, but was successively promoted to be one of the king's counsel, and a Welch judge; the latter of which stations he resigned some years ago, on account

count of his growing infirmities. He has also possessed several other small places under government, such as deputy-keeper of the wardrobe, secretary to Greenwich-hospital, marshal of the admiralty, and commissioner of stores at Gibraltar, the last of which only he now retains.

But if Mr. Barrington is not celebrated as a lawyer, he may justly claim the honour of being a profound and judicious antiquary, an agreeable companion, and a truly worthy man. In 1775, he published an Essay on the Probability of reaching the North Pole, 4to.; and in 1781, a volume of Miscellanies, also in 4to. principally on Antiquarian subjects.

In 1766 he presented the world with a volume of *Observations upon the Statutes, from Magna Charta to the 21 James I.* in which he strongly enforces a revival, and adds a proposal for new modelling the whole. This is a work of great merit, and a second edition was called for and published in 1776.

To enumerate Mr. Barrington's literary labours, would be an Herculean task: among them we find an "Account of some Fish in Wales;" "Investigation of the Difference between the past and present Temperature of the Air in Italy;" "Observations on Welch Castles;" A Controversy with Dr. Ducarel concerning "Chesnut Trees;" "Method of keeping Carp alive out of Water;" "Two Letters on Cæsar's Invasion;" "Essay on the periodical Appearance of Birds;" "On the distinguished Qualities of the Rabbit and Hare;" "Experiments on the singing of Birds;" "Correction of some Mistakes in Ornithology;" "Account of two Welsh Musical Instruments;" "On the Remains of the ancient Cornish Language;" "Inquiry into the Antiquity of Clocks;" "Conjectures relative to certain Remains of vitrified Walls in Scotland;" "On Archery;" "On Musical Instruments;" "On Card-playing."

Most of these are highly entertaining, and some of them evince the most profound research.

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This very ingenious man was the friend of Dr. Johnson, and a member of the club in Essex-street, instituted by that great moralist. He still appertains to a society of *choice spirits*, who meet at the Grecian, whither he is supported by his man, and returns in a chair to chambers. The templars, the city beaus, and, indeed, the world in general, are much obliged to him for the improvements made in the garden facing the Thames, which exhibits more taste and elegance, than could be expected from an antiquary.

DR. O'LEARY.

ARTHUR O'LEARY is a native of Cork, in Ireland, and a member of the most numerous and least predominant sect in that country.

After receiving some instruction in his native land, he was sent to the continent, in 1747, to prepare him for the situation for which he was designed—that of a priest of the Roman catholic church. He accordingly resided for some time at the college of St. Omer's, and became a member of the order of St. Francis.

On the completion of his studies, he was appointed chaplain to a regiment in the service of the prince in whose dominions he was educated; but not entering warmly into the measure of engaging the subjects of these kingdoms to enlist in foreign battalions, he incurred the displeasure of those in power, and soon after returned to the country which had given him birth.

By the assistance of some friends he built a small but decent chapel in his native city; and a circumstance soon occurred which procured him some little provincial celebrity. A work happened, about this time, to be published in Cork, entitled

— Thoughts

"Thoughts on Nature and Religion." It was written by a Scotch physician; and as no one answered it, Father O'Leary applied to Dr. Mann, the bishop of the diocese in which he resided, for permission to enter the lists; now the churches of England and Rome thinking alike on the matter in dispute, he immediately granted leave. Accordingly, soon after this, appeared his "Defence of the Divinity of Christ, and the Immortality of the Soul."

When the parliament of Ireland framed a test-oath for the Roman catholics, many persons of tender consciences scrupled to take it. On this Mr. O'Leary published his "Loyalty asserted, or the Test-oath vindicated;" in which he explained the seeming difficulties that occurred, so much to the satisfaction of the nonjuring catholics in his neighbourhood, that they unanimously subscribed.

At that critical period, during the unfortunate war with America, when the combined fleets of France and Spain rode triumphant on the British coast, and threatened an invasion of Ireland, he addressed his Catholic countrymen in the most energetic language, and in such an effectual manner, as to merit the thanks of every good citizen.

His next publications were in reply to some severe charges made against the Roman Catholics, by the late Mr. Wesley; and in these he refuted that odious imputation by which they are accused of "keeping no faith with heretics!"

Another valuable tract published by Mr. O'Leary is called "An Essay on Toleration, and a Plea for Freedom of Conscience." In this essay the reasoning is solid and persuasive, and the whole tenor of it tends to inculcate the principles of liberality and humanity.

These six pieces have been published in a volume, under the title of "Miscellaneous Tracts;" and it has reached a third, if not a fourth edition. It is dedicated to the "Monks of St. Patrick," a society of respectable men in Ireland, who associated

ated for the support of the constitution of their country.

In addition to the literary labours already alluded to, an excellent pamphlet published in 1786, and entitled, "A Review of some interesting Periods in the Irish History," is also attributed to him; and Mr. Pratt has drawn his character in a very masterly manner, in his late novel called "Family Secrets," one volume of which is inscribed to the Doctor.

Father O'Leary, as he is familiarly called, and who is said to have received a pension from government for his public services, has lately printed a sermon on the present situation of affairs, which was originally preached at St. Patrick's chapel.

BARRY, LORD YELVERTON

CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

LIKE many other of those men whose talents and virtues have raised them in Ireland to the highest places in the law, Chief Baron Yelverton owes nothing to illustrious birth, to family connexions, or to wealth accumulated by his ancestors. If report be true (and it is highly honourable to him), his lordship's immediate progenitor was nothing more than a petty dealer in wool, in the neighbourhood of Clonmell, far from affluent in point of circumstances, and unable to do more for Barry, his son, than to give him the rudiments of a classical education, which enabled him to enter the university of Dublin, as a sizer, a description of students, accustomed to receive both tuition and commons free of expence. At the usual time he obtained a scholarship, a reward given in that university to distinguished merit, and to which besides honourable

honourable rank, certain emoluments are annexed, in addition to board, not exceeding, however, on the whole, 20*l.* per annum.

Mr. Yelverton, before the expiration of his scholarship, determined on the law as his profession; but to acquire knowledge in it, and afterwards to be called to the bar, requires "a portion of this world's wealth," which unluckily his finances were unable to afford.

His marriage, shortly after, with a young lady possessed of three or four hundred pounds, removed this embarrassment, and enabled him, with some literary exertions of his own, to keep his terms in London, and obtain his call to the Irish bar in 1764. When he became a barrister, he occupied very obscure lodgings in Essex-street, a part of the town which still continues to be unfashionable. Here he remained for some time, and proved, in his own case, that even first-rate legal talents may lie long in obscurity. The industry and ability of Mr. Yelverton, however, did at last work their way, but many years elapsed between his assumption of a wig and a gown, and his becoming a character known to the public in any other way than as a professional man, labouring successfully for his client and his fee.

We do not, indeed, hear of him in a public capacity, until the occurrence of that important crisis, when the calamities of the country urged its friends to struggle with the then weakened power of Great Britain, and to obtain for Ireland an enlargement of commercial privileges, and shortly afterwards the establishment of legislative independence. Mr. Yelverton, who had now got into parliament, co-operated with the other patriots of the day in the pursuit of these objects, and was conspicuous for the energy and boldness of his exertions.—When they were once attained, he not only ceased to lend his talents to the popular party, but, on the contrary, he opposed them, ranged himself on the side of the court, and resisted every attempt to attain

attain reform in the representation by means of the volunteer associations.

In 1782, he had been raised to the important and confidential place of Attorney-general; and he acquitted himself in that situation with such unremitting zeal, in counteracting the attempts of the volunteers, and labouring for their dispersion, as effectually recommended him to the favour of government. The beneficial effects resulting from this conduct were soon apparent, for in 1784 he was raised to the bench, as Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

His elevation, though generally considered as a reward for his political services, was yet not unwelcome to the public, which could recognise, even in the unpopular senator, the learning, the talents, and the professional integrity of a great lawyer. Removed from the House of Commons to the bench, and yet not raised to the peerage, his opportunities of rendering political services to the administration were now greatly lessened. The consequence was, that, either relaxing in his zeal from want of occasion to exert it; or finding its fervour cooled by not being raised to a title, like his competitor Scott, who was created Baron Earlsfort in 1784, his politics appeared to be neutralised, until, in 1789, he declared himself a decided friend to the party which asserted the right of Ireland to choose her own regent, and accordingly proffered that office to the Prince of Wales. Notwithstanding this, he was created Lord Yelverton, Baron of Avonmore, in the county of Cork, June 16, 1795.

No man possesses a higher character in private life than Lord Yelverton. Simple and unassuming in his manners, with a goodness of heart which fraud and cunning but too often make the dupe of their artifices, he is beloved by all, and imposed on, even in the most trivial occurrences of life, by many. Though enjoying a strength and comprehension of intellect fitted to direct and to enlighten
senates,

senates, he may be governed, misled, or baffled, by the most shallow of his domestics. Of the convivial glass no man is more fond, and yet slander has not charged him with intemperance.

As a public speaker, his leading characteristic is *strength*. His voice, full, deep, and sonorous, added to a pronunciation slow and solemn, gives great weight to what is dictated by a mind well stored with legal and general knowledge; by an understanding capable of arranging, in the most judicious manner, the excellent materials which it possesses; and by a fancy not destitute of the powers of embellishment. His manner is animated, impressive, and almost overbearing. Of quick conception and feelings, often irritable, and apt to be roused to indignation by every appearance of oppression or of fraud, his lordship appears to display all the sensations of a good man. But on the bench, he seems, perhaps, to possess too little of that stoical apathy, which is so essential to the ascertainment of guilt or innocence; a cause is no sooner opened, than he catches, or supposes he catches, sufficient to guide his decision; and every attempt which the pleader afterwards makes to remove this first impression, his lordship strenuously resists as an unworthy endeavour to impose on his understanding, and to throw the veil of eloquence around truth and justice. This fault excepted, and to which Lord Mansfield himself was but too prone, Lord Yelverton is allowed to be an excellent judge, of inflexible integrity, and extensive legal learning.

RIGHT HON. ISAAC CORRY.

THIS gentleman is the son of a reputable, but not very wealthy, merchant of the town of Newry, in the county of Down. A considerable shew of talents,

talents, and great professions of independent and steady patriotism, rendered him in early life a favourite with the public; while easy, polished manners, added to an engaging person, procured him the friendship of his townsmen, who soon became his constituents.

Mr. Corry was bred to the law, and was actually called to the bar in the year 1779, a very remarkable period in the history of Ireland. Soon disgusted, either with the labours of the profession, or the ill success with which those labours were attended, he threw away his bag, which had never been over-charged with briefs, and became an adventurer in the field of politics.

No sooner was he seated in the House of Commons, than he became one of the most warm and animated members of the then opposition. His industry, which applied itself to every subject that emerged in the course of parliamentary business, but particularly to the calculations of revenue and finance; his fluency in debate, the correctness and animation of his language, accompanied with a very successful display of apparent modesty, rendered him not only a shewy, but an useful partisan.

For some years Mr. Corry devoted himself to the popular cause; he scrutinised every ministerial measure, railed against British influence, contended for place and pension-bills, and laboured, with much energy and effect, to obtain a similar construction of the navigation-act in both countries. But, alas! the hour was approaching, when he was no longer to grace the opposition bench, tease a lord lieutenant's secretary with patriotic motions, or embarrass the financier with the Cocker-like allusions of arithmetical eloquence!

The Marquis of Buckingham assumed the viceroyship of Ireland in 1787, and having dismissed a very considerable number of officers in the different departments for neglect and peculation, it became necessary to replace them with gentlemen possessing the public confidence. With his lordship, skill in
accounts

accounts was a first-rate qualification; who, therefore, could be a fitter object of his favour than Mr. Corry? Mr. Corry was accordingly nominated to a post in the ordnance, of one thousand pounds per annum. The viceroy, affecting popularity, thus appointed to office a popular representative; and the popular representative, wishing to serve himself and the country, accepted the appointment.

From the days of the Marquis of Buckingham, Mr. Corry has exhibited himself, during a series of viceroys, as one of the best servants of administration, and has enjoyed a succession of very lucrative places in the ordnance, revenue, and treasury.

But although Mr. Corry has, in some degree, relinquished the love and applause of his countrymen for the smiles of the court, and the emoluments of office, it is yet but just to say, that he was not, during several years, the forward advocate of the ancient system; nor has he ever, with the shameless zeal of most profelytes, become either the slanderer or the persecutor of the party which he deserted. He has borne himself with a meekness and temperance which disarm resentment, and preserve to him the regard and esteem of those with whom he formerly acted. In many instances he has voted against the minister on questions which, in his patriotic days, he had supported; and in others, he has modestly withdrawn on a division, in order to preserve at once his place and his consistency. In the late contest between the court and the country party, he has, however, been an advocate for the coercive system, and acceded to all the severe laws which were enacted previously to the rebellion.

Mr. Corry's person is manly, and his countenance expressive of spirit and good sense; those scenes of gaiety and dissipation in which part of his juvenile days was spent, and which contributed to give to his manners that polish which we admire, have also impressed on his face some of the indications of the *bon-vivant*. He is still unmarried, having hitherto scorned the trammels of wedlock, and enjoyed

joyed the delights of love in the less moral way of a man of fashion.

There is not a more influencing speaker in the Irish House of Commons. His voice is strong and mellow; his diction correct; and his style fluent, copious, moderately ornamented, and always above mediocrity. On most topics he is capable of speaking in a manner which always pleases, and sometimes instructs; but it is principally upon subjects connected with finance, revenue, or commerce, that he appears to the greatest advantage. To these he seems chiefly to have directed his attention, and in these he has acquired very extensive and useful knowledge. Indeed, wherever clearness and strength can recommend a speaker to his auditory, Mr. Corry is calculated to command applause, for his understanding is of the first class. From imagination he derives little aid; his fancy is either sterile, or he represses its exuberance, for in his speeches are to be found few of those flowers which decorate the barren track of investigation, or beautify the field of dry disquisition. His ornaments consist in extreme neatness of diction, smoothness and fluency of periods, and well-judged arrangement of matter. These, added to the correct animation of his manner, the round fullness of his voice, and the effect of a good person, procure for his opinions a great degree of attention and respect.

It was some time since 1798 thought that the present Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer would be raised to the peerage, and Mr. Corry appointed to succeed him. That such an arrangement will take place is highly probable.

RIGHT

RIGHT HON. JOHN BERESFORD.

MR. BERESFORD is a younger branch of that family, whose head is the Marquis of Waterford. Educated for the bar, he was called to it so early as 1761, and for some years practised with tolerable success. He was, however, at last induced to quit that laborious profession, where reward can only be obtained by the most rigid industry, for the golden prospects which opened to him in the field of political adventure. Those prospects he has abundantly realised, having raised himself to high office, and still higher influence in the state, spread his branches over the land, and struck his roots too deep in the soil to be shaken even by those dreadful storms which have lately agitated Ireland. Such is his influence, that he is reported to have procured for himself, and his various family connections, places, salaries, &c. to the amount of above 40,000*l.* per annum!

For many years back, Mr. Beresford has been at the head of the Irish revenue, in which situation he is said to have acquired and displayed a very profound and extensive knowledge, not only of the affairs of that department, but of the general commerce of the country. That he is a man of business, and indefatigable industry, cannot be denied; and that he possesses talents of some kind, is fully proved by the success which has crowned his endeavours.

The obtaining from parliament a sum of money, not less than half a million, for building, under the name of a custom-house, a palace, part of which he himself was to inhabit, establishes, beyond controversy, the extent of his power, and the success of his address; while the judicious dispositions which he has made, as one of the commissioners for widening the streets of the capital, gives him an indisputable title to the praise of great foresight and skill.

Of

Of a long succession of viceroys, with a single exception only, Mr. Beresford is supposed to have had the ear; they have been governed in a great measure by his councils, and they have not proved ungrateful to their adviser. The influence of a man thus circumstanced, must necessarily have become extensive; it has accordingly insinuated itself into every department of the state, and given to that family a degree of strength which enables it almost to dictate to any administration. One viceroy alone (Lord Fitzwilliam) has attempted, of late, to govern without the Beresfords, and the consequence was, that he was driven from the helm. Had Lord Cornwallis presided as a civil magistrate, and thwarted their plans, he too, probably, would have felt their power.

Possessing such weight in the councils of the country, it is not to be supposed that Mr. B. ever attempts to quarrel with a measure recommended by administration. In fact, the British cabinet is said to recommend no project, which has not, in the first instance, been approved by him and a few other men of business who know the country. The celebrated commercial propositions of Mr. Ord, in 1785, however, form an exception. The alterations which were made in those propositions in England, had not Mr. B's previous concurrence; and though he at length reluctantly supported them, they miscarried, as he had very sagaciously presaged.

Although Mr. Beresford, and his family, have so much influence in the Irish administration, he does not, personally, exert himself in the House in defending or supporting the measures which he advises. He never speaks but on subjects relating to revenue, or the business of the commissioners during the debates on wide streets. When repelling the insinuations of improper or corrupt conduct, with which he has been sometimes harassed, he shews great anxiety to convince, but his declamation is unimpassioned. His voice is very clear,
and

and sufficiently strong, but it wants variety, and has no harmony in its tones. His diction is indeed simple, but not correct, and never rises above the level of colloquial conversation.

Even his political enemies allow Mr. Beresford to possess a very amiable private character; for he must be confessed to be a good friend, father, and husband. In his person, he is tall, and though now an old man, he is yet florid, erect, and handsome.

RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN FOSTER.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

If the possession of a strong and correct understanding, much general knowledge, and a profound acquaintance with the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural interests of his native country, constitute a just ground to respect, it is due to Mr. Foster; for undoubtedly one more able, in point of intellect, or better informed in the very important instances we have mentioned, is not to be found among the public men of Ireland.

John Foster is the son of the late Anthony, Lord Chief Baron Foster. He received his education at the university of Dublin, where he was contemporary with the present Chancellor, and Mr. Grattan. In Michaelmas term, 1766, he was called to the Irish bar, while his father, the Chief Baron, was yet on the bench. To Mr. Foster, law was but a nominal profession; he applied himself to other studies, and no doubt had higher game in view, than the humble situation of a labouring barrister, or even the more dignified one of a *puisné judge*. He accordingly turned his mind towards statistical enquiries; and in the most dry and difficult occupations, perhaps, in which the human mind can be employed

employed, he made a proficiency to which he now owes his elevation to the most honourable office which a commoner can fill.

Shortly after his call to the bar, Mr. Foster was returned to serve in parliament for the county of Louth, and soon became as conspicuous for talents, as for knowledge. At that time, indeed, it was less difficult to become eminent in an Irish House of Commons than at present, because the field for exertion being narrow, much talent, comparatively speaking, was not called forth; but in any assembly of legislators, this man was qualified to shine; and in that of Ireland, the manly wisdom of his system of corn laws, a system which he began to form shortly after his coming into parliament, will give immortality to his name. From being unable to supply two-thirds of her people with bread, in 1770, in consequence of the operation of Mr. Foster's plan, his country has not only become equal to feed her inhabitants without lying at the mercy of other nations, but actually to export grain to the amount of 200,000*l.* annually.

After the agriculture of the country, the next great object of Mr. Foster was the Linen manufacture, and this has derived, from his zeal and intelligence, nearly equal benefit with agriculture itself. His attention to it has been unremitted; and the regulations, from time to time, introduced by his advice, have not only greatly increased the quantity manufactured and exported, but secured to Irish linens, in foreign countries, a character which must, for many years, operate powerfully in their favour.

During the very period in which Mr. Foster was rendering to Ireland benefits so important, his name was not merely odious, but even execrated among the populace, at least the populace of the metropolis. This is not much to the credit of popular feeling; but there are some circumstances which may account for the fact, notwithstanding that they certainly cannot justify it.

Although

Although Mr. Foster was thus laudably employed in advancing the agriculture and manufactures of the country, he was at the same time known to be adverse to every attempt toward establishing the independence of the legislature, and abrogating the unjust restrictions, by which Great Britain had fettered the commerce of Ireland. At that time, too, the manufacturers of the capital were either starving for want of employment, or kept alive by eleemosynary contributions. Protecting duties for these famished artisans were called for, and Mr. Foster opposed them with all his powers. It was natural that the hungry should hate the man who thus declared his hostility to measures which it was hoped would give them bread. The remote operation of laws, however wise, the bulk of the nation could not foresee; and even if they could foresee, it would not relieve the pressure of present want, or enable the famishing workman to satisfy the calls of nature.

Whatever Mr. Foster's merits, therefore, might be, the populace, reasoning from what was obvious, instead of what was remote, looked on him with detestation; his having declared an opinion against the utility of promoting the silk manufacture, was another cause which raised him a host of enemies. This prejudice continued for several years, and at one time, such was the general detestation, that it was thought necessary to give him a guard for his protection.

In 1785, Mr. Foster was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer; an office, for which his comprehensive and methodical mind, added to his extensive knowledge of the resources of the country, admirably fitted him. In 1786 he, however, resigned the Chancellorship, on being chosen speaker of the House of Commons, in which dignified situation he has since continued. At the commencement of the late parliament, the friends of Mr. W. B. Ponsonby made a powerful effort in

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support

support of *his* pretensions to the chair; but they were unable to counteract that influence which the experience, talents, and information of Mr. Foster deservedly gave him. He was accordingly chosen then by a large majority; and by the present House of Commons he was elected without opposition, most of the popular members having seceded.

The duties of this high office are discharged by him with great ability. Deeply read in the law and privileges of parliament, no incident occurs in which he is not able to guide the conduct of the house, while his punctuality, love of order, and good taste, give facility to business, and a decorous elegance to legislative arrangements.

As a politician Mr. Foster seems to have acted steadily upon one principle, that of promoting, to the utmost of his power, the interests of Ireland, so far as those interests did not interfere with any of the interests of Great Britain. Where a competition could exist, he has uniformly been swayed by the latter. There is another strong feature in his political character; he has always professed himself adverse to the admission of Catholics to the privileges of the constitution. On the bill for allowing them to vote at elections, he delivered a speech against that measure, confessedly the best which was made in either house on the subject.

In private life, Mr. Foster appears rather high bred than affable; displaying more of the lofty manners of the last age, than the easy and familiar habits of the present. His style of living is magnificent, and his relish for *improving* insatiable. To these causes, perhaps, it is to be attributed, that, with an income of not less than 8000*l.* *per annum*, he is still an embarrassed man. Mrs. Foster was created Baroness Oriel in 1790.

CHARLES

CHARLES BURNEY, MUS. D. F.R.S.

THIS gentleman, whose celebrity is equally great in the literary and the musical world, is a native of Shrewsbury, and was born in 1726. He received the rudiments of his education at the free grammar school of that town, and completed it at the public school of Chester. At the latter place he commenced his musical studies, under Mr. Baker, organist of the cathedral, who was a pupil of Dr. Blow.

He returned to Shrewsbury about the year 1741, and continued the study of music, under his half-brother, Mr. James Burney, who was an eminent organist and teacher of music in that town.

In 1744 he met with Dr. Arne at Chester, who perceiving his talents to be respectable, prevailed upon his friends to send him to London. He continued to profit under the instructions of that celebrated master full three years. In 1749, he was elected organist of St. Diones back-church, Fenchurch-street, with an annual salary of only thirty pounds; and the same year was engaged to take the organ-part at the new concert established at the King's-arms, Cornhill, instead of that which had been held at the Swan tavern, burnt down the year before. At this time he composed for Drury-lane theatre the following musical pieces, viz. Robin Hood, a comic opera by Moses Mendez; and Queen Mab, a pantomime; which last had astonishing success, being played every winter for nearly thirty years.

Being in an ill state of health, which, in the opinion of his physicians, indicated a consumption, he was prevailed upon to retire into the country. Accordingly he went to Lynn Regis, in Norfolk, where he was chosen organist, with a salary of one hundred pounds a-year. Here he continued nine years, and formed the design of compiling his *General History of Music*.

In 1760, his health being established, he gladly returned once more to the metropolis, with a large and young family, and entered upon his profession with an increase of profit and reputation. His eldest daughter, who was then about eight years old, obtained great notice in the musical world by her astonishing performances on the harpsichord.

Soon after his arrival in London, he composed several much-admired concertos; and in 1766 he brought out at Drury-lane theatre a translation of Rousseau's *Devin du Village*, which he had executed during his residence at Lynn. It had, however, no great success.

In 1769, he had the honorary degree of Doctor of Music conferred upon him by the university of Oxford; on which occasion he performed an exercise in the musical school of that university. This exercise, consisting of an anthem of great length, with an overture, airs, recitatives, and choruses, was several times afterwards performed at the Oxford music meetings; and, under the direction of the famous Emanuel Bach, in St. Katherine's church, Hamburg.

The year following he travelled through France and Italy, as well with a view to improvement in his profession, as to collect materials for his intended *History of Music*, an object which he had seldom out of his mind, from the time he first conceived the idea of such a work. In 1771, he published his "Musical Tour; or, Present State of Music in France and Italy." This work was very well received by the public, and is so good a model for travellers to keep their journals by, that Dr. Johnson professedly adopted it as his when he visited the Hebrides. Speaking of his own book, "I had," said the Doctor, "that clever dog Burney's Musical "Tour in my eye."

In 1772, he travelled through the Netherlands, Germany, and Holland, and in the course of the next year he published an account of his journey in

two volumes octavo. The same year he was also elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1776, appeared the first volume in quarto of his "*General History of Music*." The remaining volumes of this very elaborate and intelligent work were published at irregular periods; and the five, of which it now consists, were not completed till the year 1789.

In 1779, at the desire of Sir John Pringle, Dr. Burney drew up for the Philosophical Transactions "An Account of Little CROTCH, the Infant Musician, now Professor of Music in the University of Oxford." The grand musical festival in 1785, in commemoration of HANDEL, held in Westminster abbey, was considered as deserving of a particular memoir; the historian of music was fixed upon as the most proper person to draw it up. Accordingly, the same year, a splendid volume was published by Dr. Burney, in quarto, for the benefit of the musical fund. In this work the Doctor displayed eminent talents as a biographer; and the Life of Handel is one of the few good memoirs which exist in our language.

In 1796, he published the "Life of Metastasio," in three volumes, octavo; but this performance wants that arrangement and judicious selection which characterise his former publications. Besides these productions, Dr. Burney wrote "The Cunning Man;" "An Essay towards a History of Comets;" "Plan of a Public Music School," &c. &c.

His musical works, in addition to those already mentioned, are: Sonatas for two Violins and a Bass, two parts. Six Cornet Pieces, with an Introduction and Fugue for the Organ. A Cantata and Songs. Six Duets for two German Flutes. Six Concertos for Violins, &c. in eight parts. Two Sonatas for a Piano Forte, Violin, and Violoncello, two parts. Six Harpsichord Lessons; &c. &c.

Dr. Burney has been twice married, and has had eight children, of whom several have manifested very superior abilities.

His

His eldest daughter was celebrated for her extraordinary musical powers.

The second, Madame D'ARBLAY, is universally known and admired as the author of *Evelina*, *Cecilia*, and *Camilla*.

The eldest son, JAMES, sailed round the world with Captain Cooke, and afterwards commanded the *Bristol*, of 50 guns, in the East-Indies: he has published some judicious tracts on the best means of defending our island against an invading enemy.

The second son, CHARLES BURNEY, LL.D. is master of a respectable academy at Greenwich, and well known in the learned world by his profound knowledge of the Greek language, and his masterly classical criticisms in the *Monthly Review*.

For many years Doctor BURNEY resided in the house (No. 36, St. Martin's-street, Leicester-fields) formerly occupied by Sir Isaac Newton; during the last ten he has inhabited an elegant suit of apartments in Chelsea college, where he enjoys a handsome independency. He still spends several hours every day in his library, which is stored with a great variety of valuable and curious books, many of them collected during his travels.

D. W.

WILLIAM HERSCHEL, LL.D. F. R. S.

THIS country has the fairest right to enrol the subject of the present article in the number of her ornaments, as his extraordinary abilities have been brought into action, strengthened, and properly directed, under the auspices of the British sovereign.

Dr. William Herschel is a native of Hanover, and was born November 15, 1738. He was the second of four sons, all of whom were brought up to

to his father's profession, which was that of a musician. In addition to these, Mr. Herschel, senior, had two daughters; and therefore, burdened with so large a family, and in a poor country too, it is not at all a matter of wonder that the education which he bestowed on his children was but scanty. Finding, however, in William a lively and inquisitive genius, beyond what appeared in the other sons, he gave him the advantage of a French master, under whom he made a rapid progress in the attainment of that language. Luckily, the tutor had a metaphysical head, and so fond was he of his favourite study, as well as those branches of science which are connected with it, that he was desirous of making his pupil acquainted therewith. From this worthy man young Herschel gained a tolerable knowledge of logic, ethics, and metaphysics; and his attainments therein excited in his mind a strong and insatiable thirst for learning, with the commendable resolution of exerting himself to the utmost to improve his stock of intellectual treasures. These, indeed, were all his inheritance, except a musical instrument, and some manuscript music. With this store, unpromising as it was, our adventurer bade adieu to his native country while the flames of war were spreading around it, and arrived in London in the year 1759. Here he was lost in the crowd of candidates for employment, and we may well suppose that his situation in a strange country, without friends, and in but indifferent circumstances, must have been both painful and irksome. Mr. Herschel had not only a steady but a virtuous mind. Hereby he was enabled not only to bear up with fortitude against disappointments, but to persevere with alacrity in improving himself in an occupation, which hardly seemed to promise him a comfortable subsistence.

Finding but little prospect of succeeding to his wish in the metropolis, he prudently resolved upon going into the country; where musical professors being few, the chance of success must be the greater.

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After visiting different places in the north of England, his good fortune brought him to Halifax, where an organist being wanted, his merits were tried, and he procured the appointment. Here he also taught music with approbation and profit. The love of learning still prevailed, and at this place he devoted his spare hours to the study of the languages, beginning with the Italian, on account of its intimate connection with his profession. From the Italian he proceeded to the Latin, in which he made an eminent progress. He then attempted the Greek, but after a little application he abandoned the study of this language, considering it as too dry and abstracted for his purpose.

In these pursuits Mr. Herschel was entirely self-taught; and he holds out, in consequence, an excellent and pertinent example to those young persons whose education has been circumscribed within common limits, through the penury or narrow-mindedness of their friends.

A determined heart, and persevering application, we see, from this instance, will overcome obstacles that are apparently insurmountable.

But it was not to the dead and living languages only that Mr. Herschel bent his ardent and resolute mind. He attempted to gain a knowledge of the most abstruse sciences. His first effort was to make himself master of the *theory of harmonies*; and it is observable, that the book which he made choice of for this purpose, was no other than the profound and intricate treatise of the learned Dr. Smith upon that subject. He got through this work, however, without any assistance; and so great was the pleasure which he derived from it, that he resolved upon studying the other branches of mathematical learning. He began with algebra, which he soon mastered; thence he proceeded to Euclid, and so on to fluxions. The ground-work being thus laid, the study of the other sciences became easy.

His situation at Halifax was favourable to his grammatical and mathematical pursuits; and it is well

well that he thus laid in a thorough stock of sound knowledge in what may be called his retirement. In 1766 he exchanged this place for one of a very different description, being elected organist to the Octagon chapel at Bath. Here he entered at once upon a great round of professional business, performing at the rooms, theatre, oratorios, and public and private concerts, besides having a great number of pupils. In such a hurry of employment, and in the immediate circle of luxury and amusement, very few men of Mr. Herschel's profession and age would have found time to pursue studies seemingly so unprofitable and uninteresting as mathematics.

So far, however, from relaxing in his scientific studies, he pursued them with increasing ardour, and after a day of hard labour, he commonly retired at night to his mathematical books, and spent many hours in an unwearied attention to the most abstruse questions in geometry and fluxions.

In the Ladies' Diary, for 1780, appeared an elegant and profound answer by him to a very difficult prize-question, respecting the vibrations of a musical chord loaded in the middle with a small weight.

About this time his studies were chiefly directed to optics and astronomy. The pleasure which he had experienced from viewing the heavens through a two-feet Gregorian telescope, which he borrowed at Bath, made him desirous of possessing a complete set of astronomical instruments. His first object was to get a larger telescope; and being ignorant of the price at which such instruments are usually charged, he desired a friend in London to buy one for him. This gentleman, surprised at the sum demanded for the telescope, declined purchasing it till he had informed Mr. Herschel of the circumstance. Our astronomer's astonishment was equal to that of his friend's; but instead of dropping his pursuit, he formed what many would have regarded as a most romantic resolution, that of making a telescope for

himself. He did not content himself with a speculative idea, but from the scanty instructions he could gather out of optical treatises, actually set about this arduous undertaking. Disappointment succeeded disappointment; but all this only served to act as a stimulus to his ardent mind, and at length his perseverance was crowned with such success, that, in 1774, he enjoyed the exquisite satisfaction of beholding the heavens through a five-feet Newtonian reflector of his own workmanship. Our modern Galileo did not rest at this attainment, great as it was, but, with a laudable ambition, set about making instruments of a greater magnitude than had hitherto been known. After constructing those of seven, and even ten feet, he thought of forming one not less than double the latter size. So great was his patience, so determined his perseverance, that in perfecting the parabolical figure of a seven-feet telescope, he did not make less than two hundred specula before he obtained one that would bear any power that was applied to it.

While he was thus laboriously employed in his mathematical pursuits, he did not neglect the immediate duties of his profession. Yet so much did his new occupation engage his mind, that he has frequently stolen from the theatre or the concert-room to look at the stars, and then return again in time to bear his part among the musical performers. This constancy to Urania was at length most bountifully rewarded, by the discovery of a new planet in our system, to which he gave the name of *Georgium Sinus*; but which foreign astronomers have generally termed *Herschel*.

This important discovery was made in the night of the 13th of March, 1781. It was by no means a mere accidental circumstance which favoured our astronomer with the view of this planet; but the result of a regular, patient, and scientific chain of observations. When he first saw it, he was not quite certain that it belonged to our system; but a
closer

closer enquiry enabled him to ascertain with exactness its planetary disk, as well as its motion.

This discovery was communicated the same year to the Royal Society; and in consequence of it, Mr. Herschel was unanimously elected a member, and had the annual gold medal bestowed upon him for his service to the interests of science.

The year following his Majesty took him under his immediate patronage, and constituted him his astronomer, with a handsome pension. On this he quitted Bath and his musical instruments, and went to live at Slough near Windsor, at a house appointed for him by his royal master.

Here he was enabled to carry on his projects with vigour, and those which had hitherto failed of success were now brought to perfection. While at Bath, he had formed the bold-scheme of constructing a telescope of thirty feet, and actually made several trials to carry his object into effect. But though he failed there, since his residence at Windsor he has far exceeded this design, and completed an instrument of no less than forty! The irregularities in the speculum, and the impossibility of rendering the parts of so enormous an instrument as this mathematically exact, have hitherto prevented his being able to make any actual observations with it. It is a vulgar error, that the discoveries of Dr. Herschel have been occasioned by the enormous magnifying power of his telescope; the fact is, that no such large power is necessary, or useful; and that all Dr. Herschel's discoveries have been made with reflectors of from ten to twenty feet, and with powers of from 60 to three hundred. His discoveries are to be ascribed to his laudable perseverance, and not to the size of his great telescope, which is rather an object of curiosity than of utility.

In 1783 he discovered a volcanic mountain in the moon, and in 1787 made further observations upon that planet, and found two others therein, which emitted fire from their summits. In prosecuting his enquiries respecting his own planet (if

we may be allowed so to express ourselves,) he has discovered it to be surrounded with rings, and to have six satellites.

For all these important additions to the stock of national knowledge, our astronomer had the honour of receiving from the university of Oxford the degree of a Doctor of laws; which is the more creditable, as that learned body is very sparing of its academic honours upon persons who have not been educated within its walls.

Dr. Herschel has been a regular contributor to the Philosophical Transactions ever since his first communication in 1781, respecting his discovery of the new planet. Some of his papers are extremely curious; and he has hazarded a few bold conjectures respecting the sun, and other planetary bodies, which would hardly have been received from a less accurate observer.

In his astronomical pursuits the doctor is materially assisted by his sister, Miss Caroline Herschel, who has distinguished herself greatly by her application to this sublime study, and has communicated to the Royal Society some very ingenious reports of observations made by her upon the starry orbs.

Dr. Herschel is a man of unassuming manners, a free, communicative, and pleasant companion; and enjoys that vigour of constitution which is so essential to an astronomical observer in a climate like that of England. It may be hoped, that his name will endure as long as the planetary system, to illustrate which he has devoted his life.

SIR NASH GROSE,

IS a native of London, and son of Edward Grose, Esq. Being designed for the bar, he was admitted of Lincoln's Inn, in Trinity term, 1756.
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In a short time he discovered very respectable professional abilities, and established a character which soon procured him an extensive share of business.

After about eight year's practice as a barrister, he was called to the degree of serjeant, and being considered as a sound lawyer, on the decease of that most respectable man, the late patriotic Serjeant Glynn, he took the lead in the court of Common Pleas. Mr. Grose had the happiness of uniting what very few attain, the talent of a special pleader with a considerable portion of eloquence.

In 1787, without the intervention of great friends, powerful alliances, or parliamentary interest, he was raised to a seat in the court of King's Bench, of which he is now the third judge: and soon after this promotion his majesty conferred the honour of knighthood upon him.

In his judicial capacity, he has conducted himself so as to avoid reflection or reproach; and this, in the present times, evinces no small degree of integrity. Being entirely unconnected with political parties, he cannot reasonably hope to succeed to the Chief Justiceship of either of the courts, and therefore has no other object in view but to dispense justice with credit to himself and advantage to the public; for he is now arrived at what to him may be looked on as the *ne plus ultra* of his profession.

P.

MR. KEMBLE,

IS brother to the celebrated actress, Mrs. Siddons, and the eldest son of Mr. Roger Kemble, who was many years manager of an itinerant company of comedians.

When a boy, Mr. K. used to appear on his father's stage in such characters as suited his age, but
was

was not by him designed for a theatrical life. The Kemble family are Catholic, and the old gentleman placed his son John at a Roman Catholic academy in Staffordshire; whence he was sent to the English college at Douay, in order to be qualified for the church.

While there, he was equally noted for the strength of his memory, and admired for his happy mode of delivery.

But being at length tired of the college trammels, he forsook his studies, and returned to England, before the age of twenty, without his father's consent. Having landed at Bristol, he walked to Gloucester, where hearing that the Company was at Brecknock, he proceeded thither, but met with a cool reception; his father, indeed, actually refused to relieve him; but the actors generously assisted him with money, by way of subscription, to which his father, according to a report, which we trust is unfounded, was with difficulty persuaded to add a guinea!

On this, he returned to Gloucestershire with his pittance, and joined Chamberlin's company, with whom he made his first essay on the stage of a small town in that country. His profits from this were scanty and his distress great, which sometimes involved him in rather ludicrous situations.

Kemble's chief fault seemed to be an unaccountable negligence, but he was still looked on as a rising actor. In hopes of procuring more profit and reputation than his present situation afforded him, he joined with the manager of Cheltenham theatre, in order to give a miscellaneous entertainment. Young Kemble was to lecture, and his partner to entertain the company with *slight-of-hand tricks*! Kemble obtained great credit by his eloquence, but neither of them gained much money; and we have only to lament, that such men should have been reduced so low by the frowns of the fickle goddess.

After

After this, our theatrical hero joined a company at Worcester, where he remained until his sister introduced him to Mr. Younger; from which time he gradually improved, until he obtained a high degree of eminence in his profession.

About this period he produced "*Belisarius*," a tragedy, and a poem called "*The Palace of Mercy*."

From Younger's company he was introduced to that of Mr. Wilkinfon, at York; who being appointed manager at Edinburgh, took him along with him; there he was well received, and delivered a *lecture on oratory*, which gained him reputation as a man of letters.

Mr. Kemble played in Dublin in 1782, at Smock-alley theatre, and succeeded admirably, particularly in Jephson's "*Count of Narbonne*." His sister soon after procured him an engagement at Drury-lane theatre.

His first appearance in the metropolis was in *Hamlet*, and but few first appearances in London have given greater satisfaction. His solemn demeanor and style of acting are admirably suited to the character. He has often repeated it, but always in an improved state; and his *Hamlet* is now, perhaps, as finished a portrait as any on the stage. Since that period he has performed a great variety of tragic characters, always respectably, and sometimes with acknowledged excellence.

His person, action, and deportment, joined to a distinct and classical utterance, fit him particularly for a tragedian. The pathetic complaints of *Jaffier* are, however, delivered with torpor, nor is his voice equal to the bursts of rage in *Richard*, or *Macbeth*. In the lover he is also defective; but in the despair of *Beverly*, the jealousy of *Othello*, and the inquietude of royal *John*, he is peculiarly successful. His great fault is the always aiming at being original, in which he frequently fails; but yet in those attempts he sometimes strikes out new beauties.

beauties. On the whole, he is one of the first performers of the present day.

Mr. Kemble has produced a farce called the "Projects," and has altered Bickerstaff's comedy of "'Tis Well it's no Worse," into a farce called the "Pannel," as well as Louvet's "Lodoiska;" he has also fitted the old play of "Love in many Masks" for the modern stage.

On Mr. King's quitting the management of Drury-lane, Mr. Kemble was appointed his successor; but it is certain the house under his control was not very successful: this, however, may be attributed partly to want of taste in the town, and partly to want of countenance in a certain quarter; for he assuredly possesses the talents requisite to judge of new pieces, and a sufficient knowledge of the stage to get up such as are old in the best manner.

Mr. Kemble married the widow of the late Mr. Brereton. It is said that the daughter of a deceased minister of state was strongly attached to him, which coming to the father's ears, he prudently offered a fortune of 3000*l.* on condition he would marry, immediately, any lady he liked. He accordingly cast his eyes on Mrs. Brereton, and thus secured to himself a considerable accession of fortune, and a most excellent wife.

MISS SEWARD.

THIS lady, so well known, and so much respected in the literary world, is the only daughter of the reverend Mr. Seward, rector of Eyam, in Derbyshire; prebendary and canon-residentary of Litchfield.

Being an author himself, he was fond of giving his daughter a taste for letters, particularly poetry; and

and at the early age of three years she could repeat the *L'Allegro* of Milton: and at nine she could recite the three first books of *Paradise Lost* with spirit and propriety. About the same age she converted several of the psalms into English verse.

But her mother not approving this turn for poetry, persuaded her to relinquish her literary pursuits; she still, however, indulged now and then in her beloved occupation, and sacrificed by stealth to the muses.

A friend of the family happening to doubt whether the poems shewn as her's had not received some paternal assistance, he called one evening when he knew her father was absent, and requested the young lady to favour him with a few lines on any subject, adding "Let me write a stanza, and you finish it;" he accordingly indited one, and left her: on the succeeding morning she presented him with some verses, which convinced him of her merit and his own injustice.

On the death of an only and beloved sister, which happened a few years after, she wrote an *Elegy* as she was sitting in the garden. Other poems flowed rapidly from her pen; and becoming acquainted with the late Lady Miller, of Bath-Easton, she was a frequent and successful candidate for the prize bestowed at that villa.

Her first regular publication was a beautiful *Elegy* on the death of Captain Cook, which, with an "*Ode to the Sun*" (a Bath-Easton prize poem), were published in quarto (1780). In the course of the next year, she composed a "*Monody*" on her friend Major André. These two productions induced Dr. Darwin to say, that she was the inventress of "*epic elegy*." Since that period, she has written "*A Poem to the Memory of Lady Miller*;" "*Louisa*," a poetical novel; an *Ode* on "*General Elliot's return from Gibraltar*;" and "*Llangollen Vale*."

Miss Seward has also distinguished herself as a translator, for she has clothed one of the most elegant

elegant of the Latin poets in an English dress, having presented the public with a new version of several of the Odes of Horace. They have been thought somewhat too diffuse, but are allowed to exhibit proofs of a classical taste and fine imagination.

EARL OF CLARE,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND.

WHETHER we consider the importance resulting from official situation, or that which great activity, considerable talents, and indefatigable zeal, always attach to their possessor, this nobleman is certainly the first man in the Irish administration. Whatever may be the fate of that unhappy country, so far as that fate is influenced by the present contest, it may be fairly attributed to his wisdom or to his weakness, to his firmness or to his folly.

Lord Clare, although now occupying the highest law-office in Ireland, and possessing almost unlimited influence in its councils, cannot boast a long line of noble ancestors.

He is removed but two degrees from a man in the humblest walk of society—a *catholic* peasant—whose life was distinguished only by a gradual transition from extreme poverty to an honourable competency, and that too acquired by useful industry.

With the change produced in the circumstances of the family, a change seems to have also taken place in its creed, for while yet a very young man, we find the late Mr. Fitzgibbon, his lordship's father, a staunch and zealous protestant. It is said, however, that he was originally destined to officiate at a popish altar, and that he had actually received the

the education which was considered necessary to fit him for that station. If this account be true, it is at least certain that either the maturity of his judgment, or a change in his views, soon made him *recant his errors*; for he was yet in early life, when he was called to the Irish bar, to which catholics were then inadmissible, and at which he afterwards became a highly-esteemed and successful pleader.

During that period, the business of the courts was monopolized by a few eminent barristers; but the talents and the industry of Mr. Fitzgibbon forced him forward in spite of envy, and in a few years he himself became one of those who, in some respects, claimed all the honours and the emoluments of the profession. So successful indeed was he, that in the course of a life not uncommonly long, he is said to have realized a fortune of nearly 8000*l.* per annum.

Of this gentleman, Lord Clare was the only son. A profession in which the father had been so successful was naturally chosen by him for a favourite child, who was to support the future fortunes and honours of the family. He was accordingly entered at an early age a student of the university of Dublin, where he was contemporary with some of the most celebrated men who have distinguished themselves in all the recent and important transactions that have occurred in Ireland; such as the late Mr. Flood, Mr. Grattan, Mr. Foster the present speaker of the Irish Commons, &c. He is yet remembered by some of the old members of that seminary, on account of the ability and industry which even then marked his character.

Having completed his course of collegiate studies, and kept his terms at the Temple, he was at length called to the Irish bar, with advantages possessed by few at the outset of life, and these were supported by a high character, and a fortune which, even independent of any increase from the success of forensic labours, secured to him something infinitely beyond a competence. Affluence, however,

however, did not produce in Mr. Fitzgibbon what is too commonly its effect on the youthful mind—an indolent apathy. His assiduity in professional pursuits was not exceeded by any of his rivals at the bar; and though there was no man who drank more deeply of the cup of pleasure, yet few toiled through more business, or in the discharge of it displayed more of that accuracy of knowledge which is the result only of attentive industry.

It was by the observance of a rule of life which none but strong minds have ever prescribed to themselves, namely, “to suffer no portion of time to pass without filling it either with business or with pleasure,” that Mr. F. was enabled to unite those generally incompatible pursuits. With such application, and with talents certainly above the common level, though perhaps far below that at which his friends would place them, he soon rose to eminence:

In the House of Commons, of which he became a member shortly after his call to the bar, by the operation of this principle, aided by a kind of eloquence, which, though it was neither very brilliant nor very persuasive, yet being accompanied by a certain air of confident superiority, a considerable effect was produced; and he was soon esteemed one of the most efficient supporters of the party he espoused.

Without affecting popularity at any time, he launched into political life, uninvited and unbought, the partisan of the court, and the professed contemner of the *profanum vulgus*: in this sentiment he has been wonderfully consistent. From his first entrance he has not, in one single instance, started from the track before him. His conduct has been marked by an unvaried and uniform support of the British cabinet, and an avowed, perhaps a revolting contempt, for the principles, motives, and objects, of what has been called the popular party.

He

He had not been long in parliament, before the calamities brought upon Ireland by the continuance of the American contest, rendered it necessary to seek, in an enlargement of her commerce, for some remedy against a general bankruptcy. The Commons, urged by the cries of a famishing people, called for what was then denominated "a free trade," and Mr. F. much to his honour, *did not oppose* the application. The defenceless state in which the kingdom had been left, by drawing off the troops to serve on a distant continent, suggested to the community the necessity of arming for self-defence. Mr. F. appeared in the ranks as a private; but it would be unjust to charge him with participating in those high-flown sentiments of national pride, and love of freedom, which soon began to actuate the volunteer army, and which no doubt gave *some* strength to the subsequent declaration of legislative independence by the Irish parliament. He rather seemed to be carried forward by the irresistible impulse of national sentiment, than to have advanced with it toward the goal. Accordingly, when an occasion occurred of retiring without dishonour from a cause so little congenial to his principles, he separated from the vulgar herd. The moment chosen by him was during the discussion of the long-agitated question, relative to the SIMPLE REPEAL of the sixth of Geo. III. From that time to the present he has continued the zealous advocate for a strong and energetic government, and the powerful opponent of every man who attempted to reform, or innovate on present establishments.

When Mr. Scott was appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench in Ireland, Mr. Fitzgibbon succeeded him as Attorney-general. No man was ever better fitted for the office. His firmness, his confidence in his own powers, and the bold tone with which he hurled defiance at his parliamentary opponents, on every question connected with legal or constitutional knowledge, often appalled the minor
members

members of opposition, and sometimes kept even their chiefs at bay. These qualities, however, did not always constitute a sure defence. The repulse which on one memorable evening of debate he experienced on the part of the present Lord, then Mr. O'Neil, of Shane's Castle, whose manly and honest mind caught fire at the haughty and dictatorial language with which the attorney-general had dared to address him, is remembered by those who were then conversant in the politics of the day, and probably will not soon be forgotten.

But though this daring, and, as it is often called, overbearing spirit, did sometimes miscarry, in general it ensured him success. A remarkable instance of its efficacy occurred at a time when the minds of the people were extremely agitated by the rejecting of their petitions for reform, and for protecting duties. At a moment when the ferment seemed to have arisen to a very dangerous height, an aggregate meeting of *all the inhabitants* of the metropolis was, on a requisition of several respectable persons, convened by the high sheriffs of Dublin. The attorney-general was then the most unpopular man in the country; and the mob had for some time been in the habits of offering personal insult to those whom they suspected of being adverse to their wishes. Unawed, however, by these circumstances, Mr. F. attended only by one or two friends, made his way through the crowd, reached the hustings, interrupted a popular orator in the midst of his harangue, told the sheriffs that they had acted illegally in calling the meeting, commanded them to leave the chair, and threatened them with an information *ex officio** if they presumed to continue in it. He then left the astonished assembly, amidst the hisses of the mob; and the sheriffs instantly dissolved the meeting.

Hitherto Mr. F. had acted with an administration which possessed both the power and the will to re-

* A prosecution without the intervention of a Grand Jury, revived by him.

ward his exertions. When the event of the king's illness, in 1789, unhinged the Irish government, he stood in different circumstances. On that occasion, a majority of the parliament, among whom were many of the oldest servants of the crown, declared for the right of Ireland, as an independent country, to choose its own regent. The British cabinet controverted that right, and insisted that the regent chosen by the British Parliament should be the regent for both countries. Mr. F. though no longer supported by a majority, remained firm to his English friends, and resisted with his wonted boldness, not only the voice of the people, but what was of more immediate concern, a vast parliamentary majority. The unexpected recovery of his Majesty, to Mr. F. certainly an happy event, rewarded his superior wisdom, or his greater foresight; for on Lord Lifford's death, he was created a baron, and appointed Chancellor: it is also not a little memorable, that he is the first Irishman who has filled that important office!

So far as respects justice, the country has had no reason to lament his appointment, for his activity and dispatch have made chancery-suits almost cease to be an inheritance. He has banished chicane and unnecessary delay from his court; and though his decrees may sometimes be blamed as premature, the paucity of appeals seems to augur, that all complaint on this score is groundless.

Since his elevation to the bench and the peerage, he has had repeated opportunities of displaying his former spirit, and expressing, with even more effect than before, his detestation of popular claims, and particularly, that of reform. He has shewn an equal abhorrence of the catholic pretensions to share in the privileges of the constitution. Of their claim to the representative franchise, it is known that he was the decided enemy; and though by the paternal regard of his majesty, and the prudence of the British cabinet, the concession of that privilege was recommended to the Irish legislature, and adopted

adopted in consequence of that recommendation, yet *his* opinion remained unchanged. With respect to subsequent claims, the British ministry have paid more attention to his advice.

His Lordship was lately in London, and was reported to have left the seals in commission, in order to complete a plan which at one time would have been viewed with dislike by both countries. But such is now the miserable state of his native land, that any change must be for the better; and if an UNION is attended with nothing else than a cessation of carnage, every good man must rejoice at the prospect of it. W.

RICHARD CUMBERLAND, ESQ.

IS the son of Dr. Denison Cumberland, late Bishop of Clonfert and Killaloe, in Ireland, and great grandson of the learned English divine, Dr. Richard Cumberland, Bishop of Peterborough, author of a treatise on the Law of Nature, *Origines Gentium*, &c. By the mother's side he is grandson of the celebrated critic Dr. Richard Bentley.

Mr. Cumberland was educated at Trinity college, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B. A. By the friendship of the late Lord Sackville, better known by the title of Lord George Germaine, he was introduced to the office of Trade and Plantations, where he succeeded the late Mr. Pownal as secretary, in which post he continued until the suppression of that appointment by Mr. Burke's bill, when he retired on a pension.

Mr. Cumberland, while a very young man, wrote some verses on the birth of the Prince of Wales. His first publication was the "Banishment of Cicero," which was refused by Mr. Garrick, but appeared

peared in print in 1761. This should have been rather called a dramatic poem than a tragedy.

The "Summer's Tale," and the "Brothers," two comedies, were his next productions; but neither of them have added much to his reputation.

In 1771, he was reconciled to Garrick, with whom he had been on bad terms ever since the refusal of his tragedy, and that gentleman brought out his "West Indian" in a capital style. This piece has stamped Mr. Cumberland's character as an excellent dramatic writer, and it is certainly one of the most sterling comedies on the English stage.

He now began to be esteemed one of the best dramatic writers of the age, and also one of the most prolific; for next year he produced the "Fashionable Lover," which was well received; as was likewise, in 1774, his lively farce called the "Fate of Pandora, or a Trip to Newmarket." His "Choleric Man," which came forth in 1775, is said to have some affinity to Sir Richard Steele's *Tender Husband*: his "Battle of Hastings," a tragedy, was rather badly received. In 1776, he published a thin quarto volume of Odes.

About the year 1780, he was sent on national business to Madrid, but did not appear there in a public character. On his return, he published, in 1782, "Anecdotes of eminent Painters in Spain, during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," two volumes, 12mo. Next year he brought out a tragedy on the stage, called the "Mysterious Husband," and addressed a Letter to the Bishop of Landaff respecting ecclesiastical grievances. It contained some wit, and was ably answered by an anonymous writer.

In 1785, he had much business on his hands: for he produced "The Carmelite," allowed to be the best tragedy he has written; and also a comedy, called the "Natural Son*." In the course of the

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same

* Miss PLUMPTRE has lately presented to the public another "*Natural Son*," being a faithful and elegant translation of

KOTZEBUE'S

same year, he published a character of his deceased friend, Lord Viscount Sackville, and the first edition of the *Observer*. Next year a second edition appeared; and the subsequent editions have now swelled the work to five volumes. These essays abound with pleasing and instructive information, and discover extensive reading.

In 1787, Mr. Cumberland presented the world with "An accurate descriptive Catalogue of the Paintings in the King of Spain's Palace at Madrid;" soon after this the comedy of the "Impostors," and a novel in two volumes, called "Arundel," made their appearance. In the latter he is accused, but on very slight foundation, as seeming to palliate adultery and duelling.

After this, his talents seem to have lain fallow for some years, as he did not produce any thing until 1792, when he published his poem called "Calvary, or the Death of Christ." Next season he wrote the songs and choruses in the comic opera of the "Armourer." In 1794, he produced the "Box-lobby Challenge," a comedy; and also his deservedly-esteemed comedy of the "Jew," a play written with the laudable intention of removing the stigma which accompanies that unhappy and much-persecuted people. His attempt of the next year consisted of the "Wheel of Fortune;" he also presented the town with another comedy, called "First Love," and another novel, in four volumes, called "Henry."

His muse, which must be allowed to be a spirited one, seems to know no repose; for in 1796 he produced "Days of Yore," a drama in three acts; and the next year "The Last of the Family." His last piece is the comedy of "False Impressions."

When we consider the number, the merit, and the exquisiteness of his writings, Mr. Cumberland must be allowed to rank high as a dramatic writer.

KOTZEBU's famous play of that title, and which has been so much admired on the British stage, under the altered title of *Lovers' Vows*.

SIR

SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONALD.

SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONALD is the third son* of Macdonald of Slate, in the isles; his mother was of the house of Eglinton.

Mr. Macdonald was bred to the English bar, but had never any great practice. His business consisted chiefly in Scotch appeals. Yet if not highly successful in his professional career, he was at least deserving of success; and his good fortune having at length introduced him to the acquaintance of the daughter of a noble Marquis, who consented to their marriage, Mr. Macdonald in consequence of this connexion beheld the highest honours of the law lie open to his view.

By the interest of his noble father-in-law, he was accordingly appointed, in 1780, a king's counsel and a Welch judge; he had been before brought into parliament for Hendon, and at the general election which occurred during the year he put on his silk gown, he was returned for Newcastle-under-line, a borough under the influence of Marquis, then Lord, Stafford.

In parliament, he of course followed the line of politics pursued by the family into which he was adopted, that is, he supported Lord North, until he began to totter. As a parliamentary speaker, Mr. Macdonald was easy, fluent, intelligible, and concise.

Lord Stafford, on joining Mr. Pitt, procured for his son-in-law the place of Solicitor-general (1784), and in 1788, on the promotion of Sir Pepper Arden to be Master of the Rolls, he was knighted, and appointed Attorney-general in his room. It is no less remarkable than true, that the possession of these two high offices in the law did not bring Sir Archibald any considerable addition of practice as a counsel. The number of his prosecutions were

* He was a posthumous child.

thought to have greatly affected the liberty of the press.

However, after a few years longer stay at the bar, he was promoted to be Chief Baron of the Exchequer, having previously been called to the degree of Serjeant at Law.

In consequence of his marriage with Lady Louisa Gower he has several children. P.

MRS. SIDDONS.

WHEN woman passes through that thorny path of pleasure the stage, without being drawn astray by the temptations which perpetually assail the traveller, our esteem and veneration ought ever to await her. In this age, degenerate as it is, we have had the pleasure of seeing many females supporting unsullied characters in theatrical life, and among them this lady certainly claims pre-eminence from her splendid powers, joined to an unspotted fame.

Miss Kemble (for this was her maiden name) was the eldest daughter of the manager of an itinerant company of comedians, and made her first essay as a singer, but soon abandoned that line and attempted tragedy. Early in life she conceived a passion for Mr. Siddons, in which not being indulged by her parents, she quitted the stage, and hired herself as lady's maid in the family of Mrs. Greathead, of Guy's-cliff, near Warwick, where she remained about a year; and then resolving to unite herself with the man of her affections, she was married to Mr. Siddons, and soon after joined a strolling company of no great reputation. Both she and her husband had, however, the good fortune to be engaged by Mr. Younger to perform at Liverpool, Birmingham, &c.; with him she remained a few years,

years, and acquired both profit and reputation, which latter procured her an engagement at Drury-lane house, where she performed such parts as Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Epicene, and the Queen in Richard the Third. She was, however, considered merely as a second-rate actress; and being unfortunately placed in an after-piece written by the editor of a newspaper, which had the ill luck to be damned, the scurrilous author left no opportunity of injuring her reputation, and she quitted the London boards for a time, to return to them afterwards with increased lustre.

At Bath, whither she repaired, she was observed to improve rapidly, and is said to have been usefully assisted by the lessons of Mr. Pratt, then a bookseller in that city. There she attracted the notice of the audience, and had the good fortune to be patronised by the Duchess of Devonshire, who procured her another engagement at Drury-lane. Before she quitted Bath, she spoke a farewell address, which she herself had written, and which she delivered with her usual excellence.

She made her second appearance at Drury-lane, on the 10th October 1792, in the character of "Isabella," and astonished the house with such a display of powers, as they had seldom witnessed before. Her fame was soon spread abroad, and the theatre overflowed every night; the taste for tragedy returned; and the manager, whose "Critic" seems to have been expressly written to drive Melpomene from the stage, received "golden favours" from her votaries. Far from proving ungrateful, he generously gave Mrs. Siddons an extra-benefit, and increased her salary. Her good success was the means of introducing her sister, Miss F. Kemble, on the same stage; and she performed "Jane Shore," while her near relative played "Alicia," on her first appearance. The latter, however, not altogether fulfilling the expectations of the public, honourably withdrew, in consequence of a marriage with

with Mr. Twiss, a literary gentleman, and a well-known traveller.

Mrs. Siddons's *extra-benefit* was given her before Christmas; she then appeared in "Belvidera," and gained fresh laurels, and an enormous receipt. The two counsellors Pigot and Fielding were so highly delighted, that they collected a subscription among the gentlemen of the bar, of one hundred guineas, and presented them to her, accompanied with a polite letter, as a token of their esteem. This was an honour which, we believe, has not been conferred on any actor or actress since the time when Booth gave such general satisfaction in the character of "Cato."

In the summer, this great and amiable actress went to Dublin, the inhabitants of which were equally astonished at her powers. On her return for the winter (1783-4), she performed, for the first time, "by command of their Majesties." During the succeeding summer, she took a second trip to Ireland, and also visited Edinburgh, in both of which places, she not only received great salaries, but very considerable presents from unknown hands, particularly a silver urn which was sent after her to London, on which were engraved these words, "*A reward to merit.*"

Envy and malice, as usual, pursued merit; and to these alone we can attribute the attack made on her in a newspaper, respecting her treatment of an unhappy sister, &c. These reports had, however, such an effect on the town, that on her first appearance on the stage in 1784, she was saluted with the cry of "*off! off!*" Her friends at length obtained her a hearing; and her husband and brother, by means of uncommon exertions, succeeded in refuting the calumnies to which she had been exposed. She was accordingly restored to public favour. Although she had conducted herself during this contest with great composure, yet it made such an impression on her mind, that she determined to retire to Wales with the few thousands she had then saved;
but

but the persuasions of her friends, and a consideration of the welfare of her family, made her alter this resolution.

Their Majesties about this time paid her much attention. Her talent in reciting dramatic works had been highly spoken of, which reaching the ears of the royal family, she was frequently invited to Buckingham-house, and Windsor, where she and her brother often recited plays.

As some relaxation, on account of her health, had now become necessary, she quitted Drury-lane for a time, and performed at Weymouth, Plymouth, Liverpool, &c. with additional reputation. She also visited several of her noble patrons, among whom Lord and Lady Harcourt stood conspicuous. By means of these friends and accomplishments she has acquired a very good fortune, has a considerable share or at least a mortgage on Drury-lane theatre, and is blessed with a family that promises to be her comfort in old age.

We lament exceedingly, the recent death of her beautiful and accomplished daughter, and most sincerely condole with a mother, whose exquisite sensibility must have been agonized by so unhappy an event.

Nature has bestowed on Mrs. Siddons a majestic person, a striking countenance, and a fine voice; the judgment with which she modulates the last of these, has never been excelled, perhaps never rivalled, by any other actresses. The flexibility of her features, the expression of her eyes, and the grace of her deportment, have seldom been equalled. She possesses the whole art of speaking, for which the late Mrs. Yates was so justly famed, combined with the impassioned style of playing, of Mrs. Crauford, while in her meridian.

She has lately had an engagement with the Drury-lane managers, at a certain sum for each night's performance, by which means she avoids injuring her health by the constant repetition of theatrical exertions.

Mrs.

Mrs. Siddons resides in Great Marlborough-street, and is upwards of fifty years of age. In private life she is regarded as an economist, but as a truly amiable and exemplary wife and mother.

P.

DOCTOR JOHN DOUGLAS,

BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

THIS prelate, who is a native of Scotland, has been long celebrated both in the clerical and literary world. He was educated at Christ-church, Oxford, of which college he was a student in 1738, and having taken orders, settled in Shropshire: During his residence there, he published "Milton vindicated" (1748); a work in which, with uncommon acuteness, he detected the gross forgery of Lauder, who with equal impudence and ingenuity had represented Milton as a plagiarist.

He next entered the lists with George Psalmanazar, and Archibald Bower; the former of whom pretended to be a native of Formosa, and the latter a commissioner of the holy inquisition at Macerata.

These successive exertions of critical abilities introduced him to public notice, and procured him many friends; he afterwards published, in 1754, "Criterion," an answer to David Hume on miracles. His first work had recommended him to the learned, the last to the religious world; and about the year 1760, he began to reap the benefit they entitled him to, for he was then appointed one of the king's chaplains; in 1762 he was nominated one of the canons of Windsor, and soon after presented to the united livings of St. Austin and St. Faith, in London.

Among

Among the many friends Dr. Douglas had made, was the late Lord Bath; who bequeathed him his library. But General Pulteney being unwilling to part with it out of the family, paid him the full value, and on his death, about three years after, left it once more to him. From Windsor, our divine was, in 1776, removed to be a canon of St. Paul's; and after possessing that canonry about twelve years, he was, in 1788, advanced to the Deanry of Windsor.

In these situations, the Doctor not only enlarged his circle of friends among the great, but was introduced to the notice of the king and queen, and acquired a considerable degree of royal favour. He was next raised to the episcopal bench, on the death of Dr. Law, Bishop of Carlisle, and on the translation of Dr. Barrington to Durham, in 1791, he was translated to Salisbury; by the possession of which see, he has become chancellor of the order of the garter.

The episcopal character of Dr. Douglas is a subject of universal admiration, while benevolence and candour distinguish him in private life. Regular in the discharge of the duties of his high station, he commands the love and respect of his diocese. In short, as a dignified clergyman and scholar, a gentleman and a christian, he is equally respected and admired.

When the ships sent out on discovery under Captain Cook returned, Doctor Douglas was appointed to inspect and arrange the journals; and the admirable introduction prefixed to that work is the offspring of his pen.

The doctor was a member of the Literary Club in Essex-street, instituted by Dr. Johnson, Murphy, &c.

Z.

SIR JOHN SCOTT,

HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

IT has been remarked, of late years, that in consequence of the mode now in vogue, of bestowing the favours of government, the bar is the only line in which a man can rise by merit alone to the first honours of his profession; but we believe even here some grains of allowance must be made; for the subject of our present enquiries, although possessed of great merit, would never have reached the station he now occupies, without powerful patronage.

Sir John Scott is the son of a * tradesman of no great opulence, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His elder brother, Sir William Scott, who was bred to the practice of the civil law, was formerly advocate-general, and is now judge of the Admiralty court. John was admitted a student of the Middle Temple in Hilary term, 1772, and after paying the most assiduous attention to his studies, was called to the bar at the usual period.

Our young barrister was troubled with what few gentlemen of the profession have occasion to complain of—a certain timidity of character, which made him shun the courts as a pleader for a considerable time, and employ himself chiefly in the business of a draughtsman in chancery, in which he was allowed to be able, and had great practice. He found, however, that this branch of the profession was equally injurious to his health and advancement in life, and he at length determined to rouse himself from that torpor to which he was naturally inclined.

He accordingly betook himself to a more public and active line; and in a short time evinced that he was apt and ingenious at reply.

* His father was what is there termed a coal-fitter.

Sir John was not long at the bar, before he attracted the notice of the late chancellor * ; and as he always avoided opposition to the bench, received great countenance in his practice: it is even said that the chancellor one day took him aside after the business of the court was over, complimented him on his merit, and offered him the place of one of the masters in chancery then vacant. This he politely declined ; and he had the satisfaction to find that he had acted right, as his business continued to increase rapidly.

About the year 1783, he obtained a patent of precedence, which entitled him to all the honours of a king's counsel, and freed him from certain disadvantages attendant on that station. He had just before been introduced into parliament through the interest of his friend, Lord Thurlow, with Lord Weymouth, who seated him for the Borough of Weobly. Mr. Scott was said to have struck a bargain with his right honourable patron, when he accepted the situation, which, if true, was much to his honour: viz. " that he should be at liberty " to vote as he pleased." He might, however, have spared himself this trouble, for as soon as he got into the house, he acted decidedly with the Pitt party, and in the debate on Mr. Fox's India bill, placed himself in opposition to the late Mr. Lee, then attorney-general. Although in this attempt he did not acquire much importance as a parliamentary speaker, yet he gained every thing he could wish for, by his connexion with those whose cause he espoused ; for they took the first opportunity to promote him. Accordingly, in 1788, he was advanced to be Solicitor-general, in the room of Sir Archibald, then Mr. Macdonald, promoted to be attorney-general. When these two were presented to the king, the attorney-general received the honour of knighthood. The officer in waiting was then ordered to bring up Mr. Scott, when the latter

* Lord Thurlow.

begged leave to decline; but the king, *who knows the real value* of these things better than any other man, perhaps, in his dominions, replied, "pho, pho, nonsense! I will serve them both alike." Thus Mr. Scott gained honours unasked, and even against his will.

In the business of the regency, Sir John was said to be the man whose legal talents formed the basis of the minister's plan of conduct.

In 1793 he was made Attorney-general; and while in this post, he has prosecuted, perhaps, more men for libels, than ever fell to the lot of any two of his predecessors!

The part he took during the state trials at the Old Bailey will never be forgotten; for after a wonderful display of candour, he laboured through a speech of nine hours to convict a man of a crime of which the length of his own oration alone was a strong presumptive proof of innocence.

He now stands as the most likely candidate for the seals; and should any thing happen to remove the present Chancellor, during Mr. Pitt's continuance in power, he will, in all probability, succeed him.

DUKE OF NORFOLK.

CHARLES HOWARD, Esq. of Graystock, in Cumberland, a collateral branch of that noble family, succeeded to the title of Norfolk in 1777, on the death of Edward, the ninth duke; and his son, the present Duke, then assumed the appellation of Earl of Surrey.

In 1767, while Mr. Howard, he married a Miss Mary Ann Coppinger, of Ballyvolane, in Ireland, who died soon after, in childbed, and, in 1771, he received the hand of Miss Frances Scudamore, daughter

daughter of C. F. Scudamore, Esq. of Home Lacey, in Herefordshire, by the repudiated Duchess of Beaufort, with whom he got a large fortune; but by neither of them has he any children. This last lady, indeed, has been in a very melancholy state of mind for many years, and lives retired at one of his Grace's seats. The Duchess is celebrated for the smart repulse she is said to have given the amorous Duke of Queensbury a few years since.

Some time previously to his acquisition of the title, Lord Surrey had renounced the errors of the Romish church, in which he had been bred, and was of course eligible to sit in either house of parliament. Accordingly, at the general election in 1780, he was returned for Carlisle, in opposition to the interest of Sir James Lowther. As soon as his lordship took his seat, he joined the party of opposition, and with it laboured to stem the torrent arising from the encreasing influence of the crown, until the complete defeat of the Minister, in 1782. It is well known that the North administration having clung fast to their places, Lord Surrey gave notice in the House of Commons of a motion which would effectually remove them; but the premier anticipated the disgrace, by declaring "that he was no longer minister."

In the change which soon after took place, his lordship was appointed Lord-lieutenant of the West-riding of the county of York, and under the coalition ministry he was nominated a lord of the treasury.

When the Shelburne ministry came in, Lord Surrey opposed them, and joined the coalition; and when that party was driven from power, he still espoused their cause.

He now became a member of the society for constitutional information, took an active part in the business of parliamentary reform, and attended public meetings when that question was brought forward; on this account he has been charged with

with inconsistency, as he is known to be as deeply concerned in the *traffic in boroughs* as any nobleman of this age; but he has always solemnly assured his friends, that he is ready to sacrifice every species of influence of that kind, and supported a meliorated system, which he holds to be essentially necessary for the preservation of the constitution.

On the death of his father he succeeded to his title and seat in the House of Lords, and there, as before, has uniformly supported the popular cause.

His friendship for Mr. Fox has ever been steady and invariable, and to this alone may be attributed his late dismissal. At a late annual meeting, to commemorate the return of his friend for the city of Westminster, the Duke is said to have given the old Whig toast of "Our Sovereign, the Majesty of the People." In the memory of some of the youngest men now living, this has been repeatedly drank without offence; and why any exception should at present be taken at it, remains to be explained. The fact, however, is, that the Duke of Norfolk was dismissed from his lord lieutenantancy, and from the command of a regiment which he had trained with the utmost care, while he had also generously resigned the emoluments derived from it, to encrease the comforts of his favourite *corps*.

Report has whispered that his grace was greatly affected by these marks of royal displeasure: but he surely could not be hurt by the loss of nominal influence or distinction, although, it may readily be supposed, that to be torn from a set of men with whom he had lived in the habits of friendship for many years, would undoubtedly give him pain. But, if any thing could tend to produce additional chagrin, it must be to see a man with whom he had been in the habits of acting with cordiality for so many years, pluming himself in his spoils, and stooping to a minister whose conduct he had reprobated.

The duke, as a *bon vivant*, is surrounded by those who are capable of keeping "the table in a roar,"
and

and his hospitalities at Home-Lacey are in the first style of magnificence.

As an orator, he possesses an easy delivery, and evinces a masculine understanding; but he never attempts any of those rhetorical flourishes which captivate the ear, without laying hold of the understanding.

His grace has been known to perform many generous actions. He kept the place of secretary to the Earl Marshal vacant for a considerable time after the death of poor Brooks, until, as he said, he could find some one worthy to fill it, although earnestly solicited by many for the appointment. Mr. Dallaway having published his ingenious book on the science of heraldry, the Duke directly bestowed the office on him, unasked.

His father had about him when he died a great number of persons of the catholic persuasion, who, on the loss of their patron, concluded they would be dismissed by his protestant successor; but he generously directed that their stipends and allowances should be paid them, as in the lifetime of his predecessor.

JOSEPH TOWERS, LL.D.

THIS gentleman has distinguished himself in the annals of patriotism, in the republic of letters, and in the pulpit of the dissenters: he was not, however, intended for a divine; Dr. Towers, like his great precursor and friend, Dr. Franklin, having been originally bred a printer.

At a very early period of his life, from a sincere conviction, obtained by *reading*—that great bane of all tyranny, civil and ecclesiastical!—he became firmly attached to the principles of liberty, both in respect to church and state; and no man has been
more

more zealous in behalf of the freedom of his country, and of mankind. This favourite idea has, indeed, been always warmly cherished by the sectaries in general, and they must be allowed to have fanned the sacred flame, and kept it alive in the nation, during the most alarming and critical periods.

After his call to the ministry, Dr. T. was chosen pastor of the congregation of protestant dissenters at Highgate; this occurred in 1774; and in 1778 he was nominated morning-preacher to the dissenters at Newington-green. In the latter of these offices he succeeded the worthy, pious, and amiable Dr. Price, who had been appointed to the congregation at Hackney. He continued, however, to officiate at Newington-green, in the afternoon, for some years; and his colleague and himself seemed perfectly agreed relative to all the leading points in politics and religion.

On the 4th of November, 1788, being the completion of a century from the revolution, that event was celebrated with great solemnity; and the doctor, at the request of a committee, delivered what may be termed a *civic sermon* on the occasion, which was listened to with great attention, and printed afterwards at the request of the stewards.

While the Society for Constitutional Information flourished, the name of Dr. Joseph Towers stood conspicuous among the most active of its members. He had been ballotted for in 1782, and continued to act with it until 1794, when the books and papers were seized by order of government, and the secretary taken into custody. On the 13th of June, of the same year, the doctor received an order to attend the Privy Council on the day following, which he accordingly obeyed; and was examined relative to the proceedings of a club which boasted of the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Richmond, the Earls of Effingham and Derby, Sir William Jones, Mr. Sheridan, Drs. Price, Kippis, John Jebb, Mr. Erskine, &c. &c. among its associates. On this occasion, Dr. T. although visibly

visibly depressed by the yellow-jaundice, evinced great firmness, and was dismissed without being obliged to give bail, at the voluntary intercession of a dignified clergyman then sitting as a member of the board, and who is supposed to have been the present Archbishop of Canterbury.

On the establishment of the society called "The Friends of the People," he was also voted a member.*

The life of this gentleman presents few other memorable events, his literary labours excepted, which evince a series of study and toil, seldom to be met with, even in those who have dedicated their whole time to letters alone.

His principal works are the following :

1. In 1763, "A Review of the genuine Doctrines of Christianity, &c." 8vo. with the name annexed.

* This society was founded in the year 1792, under the name of "The Society of the Friends of the People, associated for the purpose of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform."

This institution is supposed to have excited considerable alarm in the administration; for, in the advertisement notifying its existence, a list was published of the first hundred associators, among which were no less than forty members of parliament, viz. the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr. Grey, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Francis, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Sheridan, &c. &c.

This society published a very accurate account of the state of the representation of England and Wales, the substance of which was afterwards formed into a petition, and presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Grey, on the 6th of May, 1793. In this petition it was asserted, with what truth we pretend not to determine, that eighty-four individuals did, by their own immediate authority, send one hundred and fifty-seven members to parliament; and that, besides these, one hundred and fifty more, making in the whole three hundred and seven, were returned to that house, not by the collective voice of those whom they appeared to represent, but by the recommendation of seventy powerful individuals: so that the total number of patrons was one hundred and fifty-four, who returned a decided majority. These statements, the society observed in their petition, which was entered on the journals, they were ready to prove at the bar.

2. In

2. In 1764, an anonymous "Enquiry into the Question, Whether Juries are, or are not, Judges of Law as well as of Fact; with a particular Reference to the Case of Libels." In this Dr. Towers took the constitutional and affirmative side of the question, not only in respect to libels, *but in all cases whatever*; this doctrine was ably supported by the late Lord Camden so far as concerns the former, and has also received the sanction of the legislature in a bill, but too little attended to by either judges or juries.

3. He is the author of the first seven volumes of "British Biography;" the first volume of which was published in 1786.

4. Between fifty and sixty articles in the new edition of the Biogr. Britan. with the letter T. annexed.

5. In 1773, "An Examination into Sir J. Dalrymple's scandalous Attack on the Memory of Sydney and Ruffel."

6. In 1774, "A Letter to Dr. Johnson, occasioned by his recent political Publications." See Boswell's Life of Johnson, vol. II. p. 200. 201. and 202.

7. In 1786, "An Essay on the Life and Writings of Dr. Johnson"

8. In 1788, Memoirs of the Life and Reign of Frederick III. King of Prussia. (A second edition has been since published.)

9. "Observations on Mr. Hume's History of England."

And 10. An Oration delivered at the London Tavern, on the 4th of November, 1788, on occasion of the commemoration of the Revolution, and the completion of a century from that great event:—

After remarking, that great and interesting events, involving the happiness of nations, have always been celebrated by mankind, he recurs to the important epoch, which placed William III. on the throne of the Stewarts:

"Of this nature, and of this tendency," says he, "is the event which we are this day assembled to commemorate. It is an event, which must ever be regarded as one of the most important recorded in the British annals. It is an event, which, at the period when it happened, justly excited the attention of surrounding nations. It is an event, which will ever reflect honour upon our ancestors, and the remembrance of which should, at all times, excite in their descendants an ardent zeal for the liberties of their country, and for the rights of human nature.

"That when all the efforts of regal tyranny were employed to overturn the liberties of England, they should have been still more

more fully established at the REVOLUTION; that, in consequence of that most important event, this country should now have enjoyed an high degree of liberty, civil and religious, for an entire CENTURY;—is a just subject of national exultation, and of gratitude to the supreme Ruler of the Universe, from whose providential dispensations Great Britain has derived such signal and such invaluable blessings.

“ It is among the highest honours of this country, that its inhabitants have been distinguished, in almost every period of their history, by their firm, manly, and intrepid opposition to the encroachments of tyranny. On a variety of occasions have our ancestors nobly asserted their rights as men, and as citizens. In the senate, and in the field, they have repelled the attacks of tyrants, and maintained the honour, the dignity, and the liberties of their country. Many efforts have been made by the possessors of power to overturn these liberties; and, at the period previous to the Revolution, such was the despotism of the measures adopted by the then reigning prince, that, if they had been tamely submitted to by the people, the liberties of England would have had no longer an existence.”

It is thus that he mentions the wrongs that led to, and the patriots who distinguished themselves during that and a former period.

“ To enter into a particular enumeration of the facts that preceded, and that attended the Revolution, would take up more time than would be suitable to the nature of such a meeting as the present. I shall, therefore, here only observe, that when the illegal, the unconstitutional, and the tyrannical administration of king James the Second, had rendered it necessary that all who had any attachment to the liberties of their country, or to the Protestant religion, should make a firm and united stand against him; when he assumed a power of suspending the laws, and of trampling on the constitution;—an illustrious band of patriots arose, who projected the REVOLUTION, and who adopted those measures that at length brought it to a glorious completion. Among the principal promoters of the Revolution, we may particularly enumerate the earls of Devonshire, Shrewsbury, and Danby, Lord Delamer (1), Lord

(1) Henry Booth, Lord Delamer, afterwards created Earl of Warrington, was a nobleman of amiable and irreproachable character, who is said to have been one of the original projectors of the Revolution, and who was one of the first that appeared in arms in its support, after the landing of the prince of Orange. But he was not perfectly satisfied with the manner

Lord Lumley, Admiral Herbert, Admiral Russel, Henry Compton, Bishop of London, and Henry Sydney, brother to the illustrious Algernon.

"Of characters of this kind our country has happily produced too many to be now distinctly enumerated: but it cannot be improper on this occasion to mention the names of JOHN HAMPDEN, who opposed the unjust claims of regal tyranny in the famous case of ship-money, and who nobly fell in the cause of his country in Chalgrove-field; of the virtuous, the amiable, the patriotic Lord RUSSELL, of the high-spirited and illustrious ALGERNON SYDNEY, whose admirable writings in the cause of freedom brought him to the scaffold; and of JOHN LOCKE, who has explained the true nature of civil government, and established the rights of men on the most unquestionable principles. And among the distinguished votaries of liberty in this country, our great and illustrious bard, the sublime MILTON, should not be forgotten. Even the splendour of his genius has not secured him from the most virulent attacks from the partizans and advocates of despotic power; and his zeal in support of the great rights of mankind should, therefore, the more endear his memory to those who are actuated by the same generous principles. He is justly entitled to our veneration for the ardour of his patriotism, as well as for that elevation of genius, which enabled him to reflect so much honour on his country by his immortal writings.

The various publications of Dr. Towers, the boldness of his principles, his unabated zeal, and the side he had taken during the American contest, all tended to render him conspicuous. The Doctor was admitted, in 1779, to the academical honours of the university of Edinburgh, having received the degree of LL.D.

manner in which some points were adjusted at the Revolution. He appears to have wished for more retrenchments of the regal prerogative, and to have thought, that the liberty of the subject was not sufficiently secured and ascertained even under the new settlement. Mr. Granger says of him in his Biographical History of England, that "he was a man of a generous and noble nature, which disdained, upon any terms, to submit to servitude; and whose passions seemed to centre in the love of civil and religious liberty." In Lord Delamer's "Advice to his Children," printed in his works, he says, "There never yet was any good man, who had not an ardent zeal for his country."

Several

Several of Dr. Towers' tracts, &c. have been lately republished in three vols. 8vo. with an admirable portrait of the author prefixed, an outline sketch of which is given in our frontispiece.

He is a widower, and has a son, who is librarian of Dr. Williams's library, in Red Cross-street.

LORD THURLOW.

OF all the *learned professions*, as they are usually called, that of the law is the most propitious, in this country at least, to such as possess talents, but are destitute of fortune. It affords a greater variety of opportunities for a young man to bring both his natural and acquired parts into a conspicuous point of view, and consequently to turn them to an advantageous account, than any other; and where sterling abilities are united with industry and application, the chance of success is highly flattering. In support of this assertion, one might refer with great confidence to the catalogue of eminent persons, who have filled the first legal departments of this kingdom for centuries past: the court calendar, and the peerage of the present day, will furnish proofs still more decisive.

Edward, Lord Thurlow, was born, A.D. 1735, at Ashfield, an obscure village in the county of Suffolk, of which his father, the * reverend Thomas Thurlow (who died in 1762), was vicar, and whence he himself derives his barony. The family,

* He married Elizabeth Smith, of Ashfield, by whom he had issue.

1. The present Lord.
2. Thomas, who died Bishop of Durham, May 27, 1791, aged 56; and,
3. John, a manufacturer at Norwich, who died March 4, 1782.

like

like most others who bear the same name with a great man of former times, is said to be descended from the celebrated Thurloe, the secretary of Oliver Cromwell; but if so, the heralds have omitted the circumstance, for it is not mentioned in the peerage †.

The subject of the present sketch, after receiving a tolerable education from his father, who is said, perhaps unjustly, to have attended to the learning *only* of his children, was removed to Cambridge, where he was entered of Caius college, under the tuition of Dr. Smith, the present master. While there, his conduct was so irregular, and his spirit so haughty, as often to provoke academic censure. The frequency with which this was administered, had no other effect upon a mind naturally untractable, than to produce occasions for stricter discipline. At length it was hinted to him pretty plainly, that a voluntary departure from Cambridge would be a prudent step on his part, to prevent the highest punishment that an university can inflict. He accordingly quitted his college without taking any degree, and repaired to the metropolis, where, after spending some considerable time, and exhausting his finances, in a manner, we may suppose, not very different from that which had distinguished him elsewhere, he engaged, at the entreaty of his friends, in the study of the law, and accordingly entered himself of the Inner Temple. How he conducted himself in this new situation is little known; but those who remember him say, that there was nothing either in his application or his

† A story formerly circulated, if true, does great honour to his lordship, as it evinces a total abnegation of that silly vanity which sometimes accompanies even great characters.

On being asked by a flatterer, while Lord High Chancellor, "if he was not descended from the great secretary "Thurloe?" he is said to have replied as follows: "There were two of that name in my county, Sir; the one Thurloe the statesman, the other Thurlow the carrier.—I am descended from the latter."

conversation, that warranted any expectation of his subsequent celebrity. Even long after his being called to the bar, he continued unknown and unnoticed, and consequently unemployed. At length a fortunate circumstance occurred, which gave him an opportunity of shewing to the world that he was possessed of powers of the first order. By some means or other, with which we are not acquainted*, he was employed to arrange and state the case of Mr. Archibald Douglas, in the great legal contest with the Duke of Hamilton; and this task, which was a very complex and important one, he executed in a most masterly manner.

About this time he also acquired the favour and patronage of Lord Weymouth; and from that moment the path to honours and emoluments lay smooth before him; for not long after he was made one of the king's counsel, then (in 1770) appointed Solicitor-general, and in a few months more he succeeded Sir William de Grey, as Attorney-general. It is very remarkable, however, that the university of Cambridge never named him, according to usual custom, one of its standing counsel. Whether this neglect proceeded from a recollection of his former conduct, or from his having left college without taking a degree, is uncertain. But though unmindful of him, it redounds to his honour, that on his advancement to the Chancellorship he remembered his old tutor, as well as his college associates, and conferred favours upon them which they never could have expected, more especially from one who had met with a treatment bordering on severity at their hands. Many anecdotes of his generosity might be related; but one shall suffice.

* He had signalized himself before this, in a cause, in which the late Earl of Winchelsea and Mr. Luke Robinson were concerned; and it is not at all unlikely, that it led to his being retained in the great Scotch contest, about to be mentioned.

While

While at college, he was often too licentious with his tongue, and entering once into a dispute with an elective and temporary officer, he was asked "whether he knew that he was talking to the dean?"—"Yes, Mr. Dean," replied Mr. Thurlow; and never afterwards saw him without reiterating "*Mr. Dean! Mr. Dean!*" which set them at variance. When he became Attorney-general, they met by accident; and he addressed his old friend, *unwittingly*, "How do you do, Mr. Dean?" which so hurt the old *cantab*, that he left the room without making him any reply. On his obtaining the office of Lord Chancellor, he took an opportunity of meeting once more with his quondam acquaintance, and again addressed him with "How do you do, Mr. Dean?" "My Lord," replied the other fullenly, "I am not now a dean, and therefore do not deserve the title." "But you are a dean" said his lordship; "and to satisfy you that it is so, read this paper, by which you will find that you are Dean of —; and I am so convinced that you will do honour to the appointment, that I am sorry any part of my conduct should have given offence to so good a man."

He was twice elected member of parliament (if his *nomination* may be so termed) for the borough of Tamworth, in Staffordshire; and during the time he sat in the House of Commons he was greatly respected by both sides for the candour, integrity, and talents, which he uniformly displayed. There he became a firm and undaunted supporter of the measures of the existing administration, and certainly no man was ever called upon to defend a more unpopular one. Lord North found his eloquence, promptitude, and resolution, of such vast service to him against his numerous and powerful adversaries, that in return he gave him the great seal, in June, 1778; at which time he was created a peer.

On

On entering upon this high office he shewed a firmness, and an integrity, rarely equalled. It had been usual with former chancellors to make considerable alterations, on their advancement, in the officers of their court, with a view to serve their dependants, or oblige their ministerial friends: and in particular, the commissioners of bankrupts were commonly changed. On the present occasion, however, hardly any alterations were made; and only one person was dismissed, which he owed to his own imprudence, in soliciting the influence of his lordship's mistress.

The situation of the chancellor in the House of Lords, as speaker, is not only of great importance, but of peculiar delicacy, and requires much address. The hereditary members of the constitution are generally fraught with lofty sentiments, and feel but little inclination to bend to the authority of a man raised from among the herd of practitioners in the inferior courts. Although the powers vested in the speaker be very great, yet they had seldom been exercised over a debate in restraining the exuberances of the noble orators; the consequence of which was, that they frequently wandered wide of the question, besides committing other irregularities inconsistent with the dignity of so august an assembly. Lord Thurlow determined to exert himself in reforming these abuses, and shewing that a chancellor ought to be looked up to with deference, instead of sitting, as had been too often the case, a mere cypher. His interference in the debate, to preserve order, and to confine the members immediately to the point, excited no small surprise and dissatisfaction; at last the Duke of Grafton, feeling himself hurt at a check which he had experienced, remonstrated against it with great sharpness. For this he received a correction on the instant, in terms that were pointedly severe, yet spiritedly decorous; and from that moment Lord T's character and authority rose to the proper level in that house.

O

During

During the remainder of the North administration, he continued an uniform and able defender of the measures of government. Indeed, a stronger proof of the universal esteem in which he was held by all parties could not be adduced, than in his retaining the seals at the express request of the new ministry. He never, however, cordially united with Lord Shelburne, when that nobleman was at the head of affairs, though he held the chancellorship during the whole of his short-lived administration.

On the entrance of the coalition junto into power, his Lordship resigned his station with becoming dignity: but resumed it again when that strange monster was driven out by the united voice of the people.

Few men in that post have gained such a degree of popularity as Lord Thurlow; and it ought to be observed, that the times in which he has lived have been extremely critical, and that he has had to encounter many events of a very difficult nature.

The most remarkable period in his life, and that upon which his future biographer will have to dwell with the greatest complacency, is the epoch of the king's illness. No situation could be more trying; and certainly no man ever conducted himself in a trying situation with greater fortitude or wisdom. His integrity on that occasion was, indeed, conspicuous; and he had the rare satisfaction of receiving for his reward, the grateful acknowledgements of both prince and people at the same time. His speeches on the Regency question, will ever remain upon record as the most precious memorials of unshaken rectitude; and that declaration which in a manner may be said to have electrified the House of Peers, "When I forsake my king in the hour of his distress, may my God forsake me!" ought to be engraven upon his monument.

After

After having acted with Mr. Pitt, in perfect unison, ever since that gentleman came into office, till the present eventful war, a marked difference of opinion in the cabinet at length rendered the resignation of one or other of these statesmen unavoidable. Accordingly Lord Thurlow delivered up the great seal, in a manner, and in terms, that affected his royal master very forcibly. Doubtless his Majesty could not but recollect, at that moment, the services which the ex-chancellor had rendered him in that awful season when he was, as it were, shut out from society, and oppressed with the most severe of human maladies!

From that time, Lord T. has contented himself with enjoying the *otium cum dignitate*, in his retirement at Dulwich. But though he has withdrawn himself from the present ministry, he has not petulantly joined the phalanx of opposition. His mind is superior to party connexion, which, at the best, is but a mean kind of bondage. While in office, he preserved an independent spirit, and was always ready to express his dissatisfaction at the measures of his colleagues in power; and now that he has no share in the government, he is equally free in reproving or commending either ministers or their opponents.

His great characteristics are steadiness, uniformity, and inflexibility, which often proceed to a length that, in others, would be termed obstinacy. No man can shake him from his purpose, when his opinion is once fixed. With this spirit of determination, is, however, united a powerful principle of integrity. In all the situations which he has filled, he has conducted himself in such a manner that no enemy can find an occasion to fasten any suspicion upon him. Though a stranger to gentleness of voice or manner, he possesses a large and very liberal mind. In the disposal of preferments, his chief regard ever was to merit; and he has been often known to resist the influence of his ministerial associates, in order to bring in those whom

he supposed to be better qualified for the vacant offices.

As a public speaker, he possesses great powers: and though devoid of the more winning graces which steal their way to the heart, he carries home conviction to it, by a select arrangement of words, a dignity of utterance, a close and logical mode of argument, and a singular expressiveness of countenance.

With such qualifications, and such virtues, not to possess some failings would be more than falls to the lot of humanity. Those of his lordship arise entirely from a defect in his early education, and from the peculiar cast of his mind. Juvenile habits and indiscretions are rarely so altered in more advanced life, as not to leave some tincture of their influence, unless in very flexible dispositions alone.

Lord Thurlow's character is replete with integrity and liberality; and therefore a few imperfections may the more reasonably be excused.* Coarse language, at time, is said to escape him; and some

* One of the most learned men of the present day, perhaps, dipped his pen in the *gall* of party prejudice, when he drew the following character of his lordship under the name of *NOVIUS*.

"Minas possumus contemnere vocemque fulmineam Thra-
sonici istius Oratoris τῷ τὰς ὀφρὺς κυνίας ἐπηκρότες, ejus vultu-
culum, uti Noviorum istius minoris, ferre posse se negat Qua-
druplatorum genus omne et Subscriptorum. Quid enim?
truculentus semper incedit, tetérque, et terribilis aspectu. De
supercilio autem isto quid dicendum est? annon reipublicæ
illud quasi pignus quoddam videtur? annon senatus illo, tan-
quam Atlante coelum, innititur?"

"Ferunt profectò Novium in 'summa scritate esse versu-
tissimam, promptumque ingenio ultro Barbarum.' Quod si
demseris illi aut σφοδρότητα quanta in Bruto fuit, aut πικρότητα
verè Menippeam, aut προσώπῃ σκευρότητα propriam et suam,
facile eidem juris nodos legumque ænigmata ad solvendum
permiseris.

"Pervido quodam et petulanti genere dicendi utitur, eo-
démque, nec valdè nitenti, nec plane horrido. Solutos irri-
dentium cachinnos ita commovet, ut lepores ejus, scurriles et
prorsus

some facetious barristers have pretended to observe an oath *quivering* on his lips, while sitting at Lincoln's Inn; but the unmannerly stranger has never been allowed to escape, though his unwilling retention was, doubtless, a painful emotion.

His lordship was never married, but he has several natural children.

Although he rents a house, and maintains a regular establishment, in St. James's-square, yet he never sleeps in town; but retires instantly from the House of Peers to his residence, near Dulwich, in Surrey.

prorsus veteratioris diceret. Omnia loquitur verborum sanè bonorum cursu quodam incitato, itémque voce, qua ne subsellia quidem ipsa desiderant plenior et grandior. In adversariis autem lacerandis ita causidicorum figuras jaculatur, ita callida et malitiosa juris interpretatione utitur, ita furere et hachari solet, ut sæpè mirere tam alias res agere optimates, ut sit penè infano inter disertos locus.

"Fuit ei, perinde atque aliis, fortuna pro virtutibus. Didicit autem à Muciano, satis clarum esse apud timentem, quisquis timeatur. Corpore ipse ingens, animi immodicus, verbis magnificus, et specie inanium magis quàm sapientia validus, studia ad se Optimatum illexit, eamque adeptus est auctoritatem, quæ homini novo pro facundia esse posset. Scilicet, quæ bonis Titio, Seioque turpissima forent, Novium nostrum maximè decent, siquidem è subsellis elapsus de Tribunali nunci pronuntiet, et ex Præcone aionum factus sit institor eloquentiæ senatoriæ. Quam igitur in civitate gratiam dicendi facultate Q. Varius consecutus est, vastus homo atque foedus, eandem Novius intelligit, illa ipsa facultate, quamcunque habet, se esse in Senatu consecutum—

— "Ellum, *confidens, catus* :

Cùm faciem videas, videtur esse quantivis preti :

Tristis severitas inest in vultu, atque in verbis fides."

"Of that orator, who carries menace and terror in his brow, we think the eloquence Thraſonic, and despise its loudest thunders; whose aspect, like the younger Novius, repels all underlings and petitioners," &c.

W.

THE

THE MARQUIS CORNWALLIS.

THE subject of this memoir has acted with success in the character of a statesman as well as a soldier. Like the Roman consuls of old, he has received and dispatched ambassadors; he has declared war, and granted peace. He fought for the preservation of an empire in America; he retained and enlarged the British dominions in Asia; and in Europe, he has humbled the enemies of his country, and, by his energy and humane policy, has crushed a civil war in the bud.

Marquis Cornwallis, whose family is very ancient and honourable, was born December 31st, 1738, and seems to have been intended from his cradle for the army. He accordingly entered into the service at a very early age; and we find him in 1758, when only twenty years old, and at a period when promotions were less rapid than at present, a Captain in Colonel Craufurd's light infantry, under the title of *Lord Broome*. Three years after this, he accompanied the Marquis of Granby to the continent, in the honourable and confidential capacity of one of his *Aids-de-camp*, and was of course attendant on the person of that gallant nobleman during the campaign. It was thus, in the fields of Germany, and under the most skilful and celebrated generals of the day, that Lord Broome acquired the rudiments of the art of war, and prepared himself to command others, by first learning to obey.

In 1761, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-colonel of the twelfth regiment of foot; and we then find him discharging his civil as well as military duties, by sitting as a representative in parliament for the Borough of Rye.

On the death of his father, who was the fifth peer of his family, in 1762, he of course vacated his

his seat in the House of Commons, and appeared in the House of Peers, under the title of Lord Cornwallis. In 1765, he was nominated one of the lords of the bedchamber; and about the same time, was honoured with the appointment of *Aid-de-camp* to his present Majesty, which was tantamount to a promotion in the army.

His spirit, however, was manly and independent. The favours of the crown did not make him forget the duties of the peerage; for he voted frequently against the minister, and sometimes adopted what is called the *popular side* of the question; in particular, when the memorable bill for securing the legislative power of Great Britain over the American colonies was introduced into the upper house, Lord Cornwallis was one of the five who refused their consent. This feeble, but respectable opposition, was headed by the venerable Earl Camden*. He also, on another remarkable occasion, entered his protest against the question to vote away privilege in matters of libel.

Luckily for the nation, his political did not interfere with his military career; for, in 1766, he was promoted to the command of the thirty-third regiment of foot, which he still holds; and two years afterwards, married Miss Jemima Tulikens Jones, daughter of James Jones, Esq. whose singular succession to a large fortune is related at large in the memoirs of the facetious Tate Wilkinson. With this lady, who brought him two children (a son and a daughter), he enjoyed every felicity the connubial state is capable of yielding, untill he was called on to embark with his regiment for America. On this occasion, Lady Cornwallis, inconsolable at the idea of parting from him, after urging every

* Lord Mansfield rallied his Lordship on this occasion, on account of the youth of his associates. "Poor Camden!" said the Chief Justice, "Could you only get four boys to support you!"

plea that affection could suggest, applied to his uncle, then Archbishop of Canterbury, who, at her request, procured the king's leave of absence. But, notwithstanding all the fondness of the husband, duty prevailed over affection, and a nice sense of honour urged her dearly-beloved lord to forsake her. The separation was, however, too much for her weak nerves to bear; she literally fell a prey to love, sunk beneath the weight of her grief, and died; thus affording a most singular and romantic instance of conjugal affection!

Shortly after his arrival in America, we find his lordship serving under Sir William Howe, with the rank of Major-general, and acting as an able and indefatigable partisan. Having landed, in November, 1786, on the Jersey shore, at the head of a detached corps, and found Fort Lee evacuated, he instantly penetrated into the country, and took possession of the province. At the end of the campaign, he repaired to New York, with a view to embark for Great Britain; but having received advice of the disastrous affair of Trentown, with the unpremeditated gallantry of a soldier, he deferred his voyage, and returned to the Jerseys.

His lordship's first enterprise in 1777, was an attempt to surprise an American post in his neighbourhood, in which he in part succeeded. Soon after this, he received orders from General Howe to abandon the Jerseys, and in July he embarked with the English commander-in-chief in the expedition to the Chesapeake.

This was not a contest in which large armies contended with each other, and in which the fate of a battle was to decide the lot of an empire. On the contrary, it was what the French term a *petite guerre*; a war of posts and of skirmishes, of night marches and surprises, in which the climate and the sword cut off thousands, without putting a period to hostilities. It is in vain, therefore, to expect any very splendid achievements on so narrow a field

a field of enterprise, when it is recollected that both armies would have scarcely constituted an advanced guard to a continental general, in the conflicts we have so recently witnessed.

In several of the subsequent events, his lordship took a very active part. He commanded a considerable body of troops at the passage of the Brandywine, and after driving the enemy before him, entered and took possession of Philadelphia, on the 24th of September, 1777. This was then considered a very important acquisition; but it was soon discovered, that a country might be over-run without being subjugated, and that the possession even of a province, does not always depend on securing the capital.

From that period until 1779, when he embarked as a lieutenant-general with Sir Henry Clinton for the siege of Charlestown, he seems to have had few opportunities of signalizing himself. On the surrender of the place, the command of South Carolina, with about 4000 troops, devolved upon him. On hearing this, General Gates, who had rendered himself so famous by the capture of Burgoyne and his army at Saratoga, took post near Camden, where he had collected about 3,600 men. Lord Cornwallis, instead of being daunted at this event, advanced with an inferior force; and on the morning of the 16th of October, a severe action took place, which was soon decided by the spirit of the British troops, who, after a smart fire, had recourse to their bayonet; and the Americans having at length given way, were pursued nearly twenty miles. Seven pieces of cannon, the greater part of the baggage, and a thousand prisoners, constituted the trophies of this day.

Early in 1781, General Arnold, who had now relinquished both the cause and the service of his native country, had landed in the Chesapeake, where he did considerable mischief to his former associates. Lord Cornwallis, on hearing of this, determined to effect a junction with him, in order

to overwhelm the Marquis La Fayette, since so much celebrated for his patriotism and sufferings during the French revolution, as commander-in-chief of the national guards.

Accordingly, having dispatched the gallant Colonel (now the patriot General) Tarleton with the cavalry, and Colonel Simcoe having been sent forward by Arnold, with the Queen's rangers, they took possession of the fords on the Nottoway and the Meherrin, the only rivers that intervened; and a junction accordingly took place between the two armies, at Petersburg, on the 20th of May. Immediately after this, the British army crossed James-river, at Westover, in pursuit of the French commander, who by this time had decamped from the neighbourhood of Richmond, and retired towards the back country with such celerity, that it was impossible to overtake him.

In the mean while, Sir Henry Clinton, who was apprehensive for the safety of New-York, blamed Lord Cornwallis for penetrating so far; and a coolness from this moment seems to have taken place, which ended in a subsequent dispute and appeal to the public. No sooner were the dispatches received, however, than his lordship, knowing that obedience is one of the first duties of a soldier, abandoned Portsmouth, and concentrated his forces at York and Gloucester.

General Washington, on learning this, was desirous to strike a blow, that might possibly put a period to the war, and he had actually formed the daring project of capturing the brave Earl and all his forces. Rochambeau, the French commander, entered with great spirit into the scheme; and it unluckily proved but too successful. The combined armies of France and America accordingly passed through Philadelphia, and at length arrived, on the 28th of September, in sight of York-Town, at which the British troops still remained posted, in consequence of dispatches from the commander-in-chief, promising immediate relief. Lord Cornwallis

wallis on this withdrew his forces within the place, in full confidence of holding out, until the arrival of the promised succours. The works thus abandoned by him, were occupied next day by the confederates, and the town regularly invested.

The English commander being now reduced to the alternative of either surrendering or attempting to escape, of course preferred the latter, and actually conceived the idea of crossing the river, surprising Brigadier Choise, who was posted on the other side, mounting his own infantry on the cavalry of the vanquished, and thus effecting a retreat, which would have been infinitely more glorious than any victory.

In pursuance of this design, the light infantry, &c. were actually embarked in boats, and transported to the Gloucester shores, in the course of the night; but a violent storm having arisen, the troops were driven much lower than was intended, and prevented, during a considerable time, from returning. In this distressful situation, and destitute even of ammunition, his lordship, unwilling to expose the remains of his gallant army to an assault, consented, on the 17th of October, to capitulate; and the terms were, on the whole, not unfavourable.

Lord Cornwallis now returned to his native country, in order to repose himself after the fatigues of an unfortunate war, and enjoy all the happiness that can possibly ensue from the sweets of private friendship and public esteem.

During the political contests that took place in 1782, and 1783, his lordship was for a time deprived of his place as Lieutenant of the Tower of London, which he had obtained several years before; but in the year 1784 it was restored to him. The calm that ensued after the peace, prevented his talents from being called into action for some years; but the affairs of India no sooner began to assume a critical aspect, than a man was looked for, who united in his own person the esteem and confidence

dence of the king, the ministry, and the people. Cornwallis was accordingly pitched upon, and immediately appointed to the high, honourable, and important situation of Governor-general of Bengal.

No sooner did he arrive there, than a war took place with Tippoo Sultaun, son of the famous Hyder, who, from humble beginnings, attained great power, acquired extensive territories, and organized an immense army. The conduct of hostilities was at first intrusted to the Madras government; but little or no progress being made, the Governor-general left Calcutta, and proceeded to the scene of action, where he arrived on the 12th of December, 1790. Having instantly assumed the command of the grand army, he proceeded to Vellore, and seemed to meditate an attack on the Mysore country, by the Baramahal Valley. The sultaun, unacquainted with European tactics, was deceived by this motion; for the English soon after made a rapid march to the Muglu Pass, through which they penetrated with little or no opposition.

Within a few miles of Bangalore, Tippoo's army at length displayed itself on the heights, in excellent order; and it soon appeared that his subjects, as if in love with despotism, were attached both to his person and government. Notwithstanding this, Bangalore was immediately invested, and the *pettah*, or town, stormed and taken on the very next day. The reduction of the fort itself followed soon after.

The army having been joined by the Nizam, and a reinforcement of 5000 men, under Colonel Oldham, Lord Cornwallis determined to march against Seringapatam, the capital of Tippoo; and on the 13th of May, the army arrived within sight of a place, the capture of which was expected to put a period to its toils, and reward all its labours. As the sultaun had posted thither a few days before, and occupied an advantageous camp, it was determined to carry it, if possible, by surprise; but this scheme proved abortive, from the vigilance of the enemy.

enemy, who were, nevertheless, obliged to abandon their position.

It was impossible, however, at this period, to attempt the siege of so formidable a place as Seringapatam; for, in addition to a variety of other causes, there was an absolute deficiency in the article of provisions.

Having therefore sent notice to General Abercrombie, who was marching to his assistance, to return, the Commander-in-chief destroyed his battering train, and retreated to Bangalore, being joined on his march thither by 30,000 Mahrattas.

Early, however, in the ensuing spring, the British army retraced its steps, and appeared once more before the metropolis of the Mysore, where it found Tippoo again strongly entrenched. He was, however, attacked, and obliged, as before, to retreat. The Bombay army forming a junction soon after, regular approaches were made, redoubts were raised, and had it not been for some unlucky events, in respect to which his lordship was entirely blameless, the sultaun, after being stripped of his capital, and bereaved of his power, would have laid prostrate at his feet.

He, however, was obliged to accept of such terms as the English commander chose to dictate. He consented to cede part of his dominions, paid a large sum of money, undertook to furnish a still more considerable portion of treasure, within a limited period, &c. and entrusted two of his sons to the care of Lord Cornwallis, with whom they were to remain as hostages for the due performance of the treaty: and here it is but justice to a prince, whom we are accustomed to style a *barbarian*, to observe, that he fulfilled every article with the most scrupulous punctuality.

This important war being now ended, highly to the honour of the British arms, Lord Cornwallis returned to England, without being enriched by a post, in which avarice and rapacity could easily have realized a princely fortune—but he neither
extracted

exacted a *jaghire* from the conquered sovereign, nor increased his own income, by venality or extortion.

Honours and employments, both so well earned, awaited him at home. He had before been invested with the insignia of the Garter; he was now (1792) created a Marquis, admitted a member of the Privy Council, and in addition to his other appointments, was nominated to the lucrative office of Master-general of the Ordnance.

Returning once more to the bosom of domestic happiness, the marquis seemed to promise to himself a life of ease and quiet in his native country. Such, however, was not his destiny. Ireland was disorganized, and the English power there shook to its very centre. It was even doubtful how long it would appertain to Great Britain; for it was menaced by insurrection within, and invasion from without. One of these events had actually taken place, and the other soon followed.

In this critical state of affairs, the eyes of the cabinet, and the nation, were once more turned towards him, and he was invested with the Vice-regal powers, amidst the acclamations of both kingdoms. His administration has been short; but it has been successful. The insurgents have been beaten, the disaffected have been disarmed, and an invading enemy has been taken captive. But his administration has been accompanied by merits of another, and of a better kind; for military despotism has ceased, the system of plunder and free quarters has been checked, and the torture, the rack, the whip, the scourge, and the halter, abolished, as instruments not within the pale of legitimate government!

LORD

LORD CARRINGTON

IS the son of Mr. Abel Smith, many years a respectable shopkeeper, and afterwards a banker at Nottingham. Before banking became a distinct business in the country, it was the practice of woollen-drappers, and other shop-keepers, whose business required large capitals, to discount the bills of their fellow townsmen; and hence the majority of country banks owe their origin to opulent individuals, who are, to this day, bankers also in towns which are not large enough to support a separate bank.

Mr. Abel Smith died a few years since, and left a very large property among his sons; of whom Robert, now Lord Carrington, is the eldest. The Nottingham bank, after the death of its founder, was carried on by his lordship, in conjunction with and under the firm of the house in Mansion-house-street, now so well known as the bank of Smith, Payne, and Co. The integrity of Messrs. Smiths, and the activity of Mr. Rene Payne, greatly tended to the extension of the interests of the house in London; which may certainly be considered, at the present day, as one of the first in the metropolis.

His lordship has been, from a very early period of his life, in habits of strict and constant intercourse with the present Premier, who is his zealous and intimate friend; and who has always experienced, in return, from Lord Carrington, an useful and pretty uniform adherence to his measures. His lordship is not, however, to be considered as a tory; his family, his connexions, and avowed principles, being wholly on the side of the whigs. Whilst a commoner, he sat as member for Nottingham, for which place he was returned by the corporation, on the whig and dissenting interest, but contrary to the wishes of the dregs of the populace*; a cir-

* A sort of *Birmingham* mob, which has more than once disgraced the town of Nottingham.

cumstance that has occasioned no small personal danger to his lordship, who was once under the necessity of escaping from their barbarous fury in the disguise of a waggoner!

The property of Lord Carrington is moderately estimated at about 30,000*l. per annum*, including his supposed interests in the several banks in London, Nottingham, Hull, and Lincoln, and a commercial concern at Hull, in which the father of Mr. Wilberforce had also a share.

The Boroughs of Midhurst and Wendover form parts of his lordship's landed property, having been recently purchased at a price very little short of a hundred thousand pounds! Of these boroughs, now under the patronage of Lord Carrington, it may be worthy of remark, that two of the most illustrious characters of the present age have represented them in parliament, *Fox* and *Burke*.

The cash account of the customs of England has been for some years kept at the house of Smith, Payne, and Co. This alone is sufficient to bestow a high degree of respectability upon any banking-house, and has doubtless tended to raise the wealth and reputation of the Smiths.

As a public man, Lord Carrington must certainly be classed among courtiers; his conduct, however, in private life, is worthy of being held up for the imitation of the opulent and the noble. Liberality is a striking trait in his character. His marriage with Miss Barnard, a lady of Yorkshire, the present Lady Carrington, is a pleasing proof, that his lordship estimates amiable accomplishments, and virtuous dispositions, above the more fashionable dowers of birth and fortune. By this lady, Lord Carrington is the father of nine beautiful daughters, and one son, who is the youngest of the ten.

The second brother, Mr. Samuel Smith, is member of parliament for the Borough of Leicester, and is equally distinguished for the amiableness and simplicity of his manners, and his integrity in private

vate life. In politics, he is a moderate man, but not less attached to Mr. Pitt than his brother.

S. R.

MISS HANNAH MORE.

THE controversy respecting the intellectual talents of women, as compared with those of men, is nearly brought to an issue, and greatly to the credit of the fair sex. The present age has produced a most brilliant constellation of female worthies, who have not only displayed eminent powers in works of fancy, but have greatly distinguished themselves in the higher branches of literary composition. Our own country has the honour of enrolling among its literary ornaments many females, to whom the interests of poetry, morality, and the sciences, are greatly indebted. Among illustrious living ladies may, with justice, be mentioned the names of Barbauld, Robinson, Cowley, Smith, Radcliffe, Piozzi, Seward, Lee, Hays, Inchbald, Cappe, Plampre*, Trimmer, Yearsley, Williams, D'Arblay, Bennet, Linwood, Cofway, Kauffman, and Siddons. The female who is the subject of the present notice is well known to the literary world, by several elegant, ingenious and useful publications. A few particulars respecting her, therefore, will not only be amusing to those who have read her works, but will also be instructive to young persons in the way of example.

Miss Hannah More is the eldest of three maiden sisters, who were the daughters of a poor but very worthy peasant at Hanham, a village near Bristol.

Hannah, notwithstanding the domestic drudgery which necessarily fell to her lot, improved her mind

* The able translator of Kotzebue's "Natural Son."

during

during the few leisure hours she could spare in reading. It may be well supposed that her stock of books was but small. The first which fell in her way was the *Pamela* of Richardson, the humble source of an innumerable offspring : happy it would have been for the interests of virtue and literature, had the progeny been but as innocent as the parent.

The literary attainments, sobriety, modesty, and industry of *Hannah More*, were spoken of with general respect in her native place, and at length raised her, through the patronage of some respectable persons there, to the useful and comparatively important station of the village schoolmistress. Her genius struggled above all the obstacles of that lowly condition, and she acquired such a degree of knowledge, as to enable her, with her sisters, to enlarge the school, and to undertake the education of young persons above the situation of those to whose improvement their attention had hitherto been directed. So great, at length, was their reputation, that several ladies of fortune and discernment prevailed upon them to remove to Bristol, about the year 1765, where they opened a boarding-school in Park-street. This seminary, in a short time, became the most respectable of its kind in the West of England ; and many females of rank received their education in it.

Among others, who had the advantage of profiting by the instruction of Miss More and her sisters, was the celebrated Mrs. *Robinson*, well known for her various elegant publications in prose and verse.

Miss *More* had the good fortune of having for a next-door neighbour the Reverend Dr. *Stonehouse* ; who perceiving her merits, distinguished her by his friendship, which he manifested by his instructions and his recommendation. Both of these were of the most essential service to her interests in the line of her profession ; and also in the cultivation of her literary taste. The doctor was a man of extensive acquaintance, general knowledge, and elegant manners.

manners. He condescended to examine the occasional effusions of her pen, and also to correct them, and through his hands all her early efforts passed to the press. The first of these was entitled "The Search after Happiness, a Poem," which was printed at Bristol, under the doctor's eye; and on its publication in London was so favourably received, as to encourage the author to further exertions of her powers. She next published "Sir Eldred of the Bower, and the Bleeding Rock; a legendary Tale;" which style of writing was become fashionable, through the success of Dr. Goldsmith's sweet story of Edwin and Angelina.

Miss *More* now turned her attention to dramatic poetry, and produced a tragedy entitled *FATAL FALSEHOOD*; which was tolerably well received; but not so much as her *PERCY*, a tragedy, which met with universal applause. She also wrote another tragedy, called the *INFLEXIBLE CAPTIVE*; which fell short of the merit of her other dramatic pieces. The success she met with in this way, was owing, in a great measure, to the immediate and commanding patronage of Garrick, who entered warmly into her interests, through the recommendation of Dr. Stonehouse, with whom he was very intimate*.

She

* The doctor was one of the most correct and elegant preachers in the kingdom. When he entered into holy orders, he took occasion to profit, by his acquaintance with Garrick, to procure from him some valuable instructions in elocution. Being once engaged to read prayers, and to preach at a church in the city, he prevailed upon Garrick to go with him. After the service, the British Roscius asked the doctor what particular business he had to do when the duty was over: "None," said the other: "I thought you had, (said Garrick), "on seeing you enter the reading-desk in such a hurry."—"Nothing (added he) can be more indecent, than to see a clergyman set about sacred business as if he were a tradesman, and to go into the church as if he wanted to get out of it as soon as possible."—

He next asked the doctor "What books he had in the desk before him?"—"Only the Bible and Prayer-book."—"Only
" the

She afterwards printed a small volume of "Essays for Young Ladies," in which she has recommended to them a variety of ingenious and excellent observations upon the most important subjects, expressed in elegant language. In 1782, she published a work, perhaps the most popular of all her pieces, entitled "Sacred Dramas; to which is added, Sensibility, a poetical Epistle." In this volume, she has dramatized, in a very natural and feeling manner, some of the most affecting and instructive narratives in the sacred history. Many of these had been previously performed by her pupils; and had given so much satisfaction to those who had seen the performances, or read the pieces, as to occasion numerous solicitations that they might be printed. The voice of the public accorded with the sentiments of private friendship, and these dramas have not only gone through several large editions, but, we believe, they have been, and are now frequently performed in respectable boarding-schools.

Her next production was in a different style of composition; it was entitled "Bas Bleu, with the Tale of Florio," 1785. This poem is somewhat in the manner of Fontaine, and hits off the prevailing follies with great smartness and taste. The foundation of it was the *Blue Stocking club*, instituted by Mrs. Montague.

In 1788, appeared a small volume, called "Thoughts on the Manners of the Great;" which attracted an uncommon degree of curiosity. As it was anonymous, some conjectured it to be the performance of one person, and some of another. The present Bishop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and many others, were reputed to be its authors; but at length it was discovered to have issued from the pen

"the Bible and Prayer-book," replied the player; "why you tossed them backwards and forwards, and turned the leaves as carelessly as if they were those of a day-book and ledger."

The doctor was wise enough to see the force of these observations, and in future he avoided the faults they were designed to reprove.

of

of Miss More. In this work she attacked, with great spirit, the encreasing licentiousness of high life.

In the period between these two publications Miss More and her sisters had resigned their school, in favour of Miss Mills, and retired to a neat cottage, which they had purchased with the fruits of their joint industry, at the foot of the Mendip hills.

Here they instituted a sunday-school, which has greatly encreased, and been abundantly blessed under their pious and judicious management.

In 1791, our author published, without her name, a useful and popular little volume, entitled "An Estimate of the Religion of the Fashionable World." This well-timed performance exposes strongly that lifeless profession of Christianity which is the general characteristic of the higher orders of society. She has herein the honour of having preceded Mr. Wilberforce, and some other eminent persons, in pleading for the necessity of a sound religious faith, in order to an acceptable course of moral practice.

About this time a society was formed, whose object was the instruction of the poor in morality and religion. The plan adopted was, to print striking, amusing, and instructive tracts, adapted to the capacities of common persons, and coming easily within their ability to purchase. On this ground the Cheap Repository was established, by which many thousands of most useful pieces have been circulated in the manufacturing towns and villages of this kingdom. In this benevolent design Miss More was one of the first concerned, and towards the success of it she has been particularly assisting by her excellent contributions. Among other useful tracts of her writing we shall only mention "*The Shepherd of Salisbury Plain*," a little performance which persons of a refined taste may read with pleasure and profit. She also endeavoured to counteract the progress of those political principles which the French Revolution had made so fashionable; and printed some small tracts, particularly one entitled "*Village*

lage Politics," in the way of dialogue, which obtained a wide extent of circulation.

Miss MORE has the credit of having drawn Mrs. Yearley, the celebrated poetical milk-woman, from her obscurity into public notice and favour. When she had discovered this remarkable phenomenon, she immediately began to exert her benevolence, and by her unwearied assiduity procured a liberal subscription to the poems of this child of nature. She also drew up an interesting account of the milk-woman in a letter to Mrs. Montague; which letter, in order to enlarge the subscription, was published in the newspapers and magazines of the day. By the attentions of Miss More, a sum was raised sufficient to place the object of them in a situation more suitable to her genius. But we are sorry to be obliged to add, that a disagreement almost immediately followed the publication of the poems in question, between the author and her patroness; which is said to have been occasioned by the latter's taking the management of the subscription-money into the hands of herself and some select friends. The motive with which this was done is greatly to the credit of Miss More and her friends, as it was no other than a desire to provide permanently for Mrs. Yearley and her young family. She, however, had a different opinion, and thought it was unjust in them to withhold from her the management of her own property. She went further, and endeavoured to represent her best friend as actuated by unworthier sentiments, the worst of which was, that of *envy*. Some attacks were, in consequence, made upon Miss More in different publications; but, conscious of the purity of her own views, she passed over those invidious attempts to prejudice the public mind against her in silence.

Another remarkable phenomenon in that neighbourhood also attracted Miss More's curiosity and benevolence about that time. A strange female, of elegant figure and manners, had been seen, for some considerable time, hovering about the fields near

near French-hay, and Hanham, of whom no particulars could be known. She thankfully received any humble food that was presented to her by the peasants; but always took up her night's lodging under a haystack. Various attempts were made to gain from her the place of her birth, but in vain. It was evident that she was a foreigner, and strange surmises were naturally formed, respecting her country and connexions. Miss More's humanity was roused upon this interesting occasion; and chiefly by her means the fair stranger found a comfortable asylum in the house of Mr. Henderson, at the Fishponds, father of the celebrated, but eccentric, John Henderson, of Pembroke college, Oxford.

Our benevolent author wrote an account of the "Maid of the Hay-stack," which was printed in most of the publications of the period.

Miss More has long been honoured with the particular friendship of some of the most distinguished personages in the kingdom. She spends some months in the year at the Duke of Beaufort's seat in Gloucestershire. She is also greatly esteemed by the Bishop of London, Mr. Wilberforce, and other persons eminent for literature and piety.

In the village where she resides, with her sisters, a great and pleasing reformation has been accomplished by their means. Every Sunday evening the children of the Sunday-schools, under their immediate patronage, are assembled in the school-room, together with the farmers' servants, and such other grown persons as choose to attend. In this little congregation prayers are offered up, a plain discourse read, and hymns sung. Pertinent questions are proposed to the adult part of the auditory, on the plain truths of Christianity; and the whole of this pleasing service is concluded with a cheerful hymn of praise to the God of all these mercies.

N. S.

MR.

MR. ALDERMAN BOYDELL,

In a volume containing the biography of the eminent artists of this country, claims a peculiar and pre-eminent distinction; for though the productions of his own *burin* cannot be classed with those of men who have devoted their lives to the practical part of their profession, he has rendered more real service to the English school than the whole mass of our English nobility, and may very fairly be denominated the father of the arts in Great Britain.

He was born on the 19th of January, 1719, at Dorrington, in Shropshire, of which place his grandfather was vicar*. His father, who was a land-surveyor, intended his son for his own profession; and had it not been for one of those little accidents which determine *the path that men are destined to walk*, he had wasted that life, which has been so honourable to himself and beneficial to his country, in measuring and valuing the acres of Shropshire squires, and the manors of Welsh baronets. Fortunately for himself, and the arts, a trifling incident gave a different direction to his mind, and led him to aim at the delineation of scenes more picturesque than the ground-plans of houses, boundaries of fields, or windings of obscure roads.

While he was yet very young, chance threw in his way "Baddeley's Views of different Country Seats;" amongst them was one of Hawarden Castle, Flintshire, which being the seat of Sir John Glynn, by whom he was then employed in his professional capacity, and in the parish of which his father was an inhabitant, naturally attracted his attention. An exact delineation of a building he had so often contemplated, afforded him pleasure, and excited an astonishment easier to conceive than describe. Considering it as an engraving, and naturally re-

* He was afterwards vicar of Ashbourne, and rector of Mapleton, both in Derbyshire.

reflecting that from the same copper might be taken an almost indefinite number of impressions, he determined to quit the pen and take up the graver, as an instrument which would enable him to disseminate whatever work he could produce, in so much wider a circle. This resolution was no sooner made, than it was put in execution; for with that spirit and perseverance which he has manifested in every succeeding scene of his life, he, at twenty-one years of age, walked up to the metropolis, and at the age of TWENTY-ONE bound himself apprentice for seven years to Mr. Toms, the engraver of the print which had so forcibly attracted his attention.

These, and accidents equally trifling, sometimes attract men of strong minds into the path *that leads direct to fame*, and have been generally considered as proving that they were born with some peculiar genius for some peculiar study; though after all, genius is, perhaps, little more than what a great moralist has defined it—" *A mind with strong powers, accidentally directed to some particular object* ; for it is not easy to conceive that a man who can run a given distance in a short time with his face to the east, could not do the same thing if he turned his face to the west." Be this as it may:—It is recorded of Cowley, that by reading Spenser's *Faerie Queen*, he became a poet. Pope says of himself, that while yet a boy he acquired his first taste for poetry by the perusal of Sandys's *Ovid* and Ogilby's *Virgil* ; Sir Joshua Reynolds had the first fondness for his art excited by the perusal of Richardson's treatise on Painting ; and, as we have before observed, Mr. Alderman Boydell was induced to learn the art of engraving by the coarse print of a coarse artist, representing a mishapen Gothic castle.

His conduct, during his apprenticeship, was eminently assiduous ; eager to attain all possible knowledge of an art on which his mind was bent, and of every thing that would be useful to him, and impelled by an industry that seems inherent in

his nature, * whenever he could, he attended the academy in St. Martin's-lane to perfect himself in drawing; his leisure hours in the evening were devoted to the study of perspective, and learning French without the aid of a master;—to improve himself in the pronunciation of the language he had thus acquired, he regularly attended at the French chapel. After very steadily pursuing his business for six years, finding himself a better artist than his teacher, he bought from Mr. Toms the last year of his apprenticeship, and became his own master; and the first use he made of his freedom was to return into his own country, where he married a very deserving young person to whom he had an early attachment, and with whom he lived many years in great felicity. During his stay he made many drawings of different romantic spots, and remarkable buildings, in Derbyshire and Wales,† which he afterwards engraved: but his first publication made its appearance in 1745, immediately after he was out of his time, and was entitled *the Bridge-book*; it consisted of six small-sized landscapes, designed and engraved by himself, and sold at a shilling. With this the public were pleased, and the sale of it encouraged and enabled him to proceed with vigour in his future works. The paper and printing would now cost more than the sum the book was at that time sold for.

The arts were then at a very low ebb: inferior prints, from poor originals, were almost the only works which our English artists were *thought* capa-

* How striking a contrast does his conduct form to that of Chatelaine, who was at the same period employed by Mr. Toms, and in the same workshop etched and engraved at one shilling an hour; but who, with all his taste and talents, and he had much of both, was so dissipated and idle, that at the expiration of the first half-hour he frequently demanded his sixpence, and retired to a neighbouring alehouse to expend it.

† Among these were a view of the straits in Dovedale, Matlock baths, Cromford, Beeston castle, Chester castle, Conway castle, and Denbigh castle.

ble of performing, nor were they (with the exception of the inimitable Hogarth, and two or three more), in general, qualified for much better things. The few people who had a taste for higher art, gratified themselves by the purchase of Flemish and Italian pictures, or French prints; for which, even at that period, the empire was drained of very large sums of money. This, to a young man, who felt that his own interest was hurt, and the nation dishonoured, and who was conscious that, with proper encouragement, better things might be done, must have been a mortifying prospect. But though he might lament that the course of the stream ran so much against his own and his country's interest, his powers did not then enable him to turn the current; he, therefore, for the present, followed it, and designed and engraved many views of places in and about London; which were generally published at the low price of one shilling each. Besides these, he copied many prints from Vandewelde, Brooking, Berghem, Ostade, Castiglione, Salvator Rosa, &c. *

The facility with which he drew, etched, and managed the dry needle, enabled him to complete a great number of prints; and with a view of shewing the improvement of the art since the time of their publication, the alderman lately collected the whole into one port folio, and published it at five guineas.† In his introduction to this work, he fairly remarks:

P 2

“ That

* Even at this period, he was so much alive to fame, that after having past several months in copying an historical picture of Coriolanus, by Sebastian Concha, he so much disliked his own engraving, that he cut the plate to pieces.

† The number of these prints, which were drawn and engraved at a time when the artist had much other business to attend to, displayed uncommon industry; and the manner in which many of them are executed, evince talents, that practice, and his constitutional perseverance, would have rendered highly respectable. The man who could engrave such a print

“ That to the lovers of the fine arts it may be an object of some curiosity, as it was from the profits of these prints that the engraver of them was first enabled to hold out encouragement to young artists in this line, and thereby, he flatters himself, has somewhat contributed to bring the art of engraving in England to such a state of superiority. It may likewise be added, that *this is the first book that ever made a Lord Mayor of London*. Few men have had the happiness of seeing, in a single life-time, such a rapid improvement; and the publisher will be gratified, if in the future history of the art, his very extensive undertakings shall be thought to have contributed to it. When the smallness of this work is compared with what has followed, he hopes it will impress all young artists with the truth of what he has already held out to them—that *industry, patience, and perseverance, united to talents, are certain to surmount all difficulties.*”

To return from the alderman's precepts, to his publications. Finding that the taste for prints encreased, and that sums larger and larger were annually drawn out of this country by French artists, he sought for an English engraver who could equal, if not excel them—and in Woollet he found one. The temple of Apollo from Claude, and two premium pictures by the Smiths of Chichester, were among the first that he engraved; but the Niobe, and the Phæton, from Wilson, which were published by subscription at 5s. each, were the two great pillars on which Woollet's well-earned reputation was built. For the first of them, the alderman agreed to give the engraver fifty guineas;* and, when

as the Medea and Jason, from Salvator-Rosa, if he had not become the first in his profession—must have been *in the very first line*. The pen and ink drawing of Wrexham-church, several views in Derbyshire, &c. and a very correct and spirited copy from Hogarth's enraged musician, are now in the possession of Mrs. Nicol, of Pall-mall.

* The immense difference between the prices paid to artists *now* and *then*, is almost incredible;—the Messrs. Boydells, in their

when it was completed he paid him a hundred. The second, the artist agreed to paint for fifty guineas, and the alderman paid him one hundred and twenty. *Proof-prints* were not, at that time, considered as having any particular value; the few that were taken off to examine the progress of the plate, were delivered to such subscribers as wished to have them, at the same price as the common impressions. Several of these have been since bought in public auctions, at ten pounds each.—At Mr. Hilliard's sale, one of them sold for eleven guineas.

The number of fine—of inimitably fine prints which have been since that time engraved in this country, have, indisputably, fixed the English school above every other in Europe; and been a very important article in the commerce of this nation, by altering the balance immensely in our favour.

The alderman has not confined himself to prints; he has also done more towards establishing an English school of historical painting than any other man: it is hardly necessary to say, we allude to the Shakspeare gallery; an undertaking of a magnitude that was never before attempted, and conducted in a manner that must astonish every nation in Europe. With that enthusiastic ardour which he feels for the promotion of the arts, he has presented to the corporation of the city of London several very valuable pictures; which are placed in the council chamber, at Guildhall. Some of them are calculated to commemorate the actions of those heroes who have done honour to the British name*; and others, to impress on the minds of the rising generation the sentiments of virtue, in-

their advertisement to the print of Major Pearson, assert, that painting the picture, engraving the print, and every incidental expence, cost them the immense sum of five thousand pounds.

* The half-length of Lord Heathfield, is, perhaps, the finest portrait that Sir Joshua Reynolds ever painted.

dustry,

dustry, and prudence, in several very well-imagined allegorical representations, painted by Mr. Rigaud, Smirke, Westall, &c. Such is the slight memorial of his conduct, as an artist and protector of the arts. On his conduct as a citizen, it is not necessary for this page to record any eulogium. In the different offices of alderman, sheriff, and first magistrate of the city of London, he has acted in a manner that will be remembered, and by many remembered gratefully;—for though inflexibly just, he was ever merciful; and when husbands came before him, with complaints of their wives; masters, of their servants or apprentices; fathers, of their children; he invariably, and often successfully, tried to reconcile them to each other, and accommodate their differences.

To the duties of his office he has ever been peculiarly attentive; and very often, when it was not in his rotation, supplied the place of a brother alderman. This, considering the great attention necessary to his own business, is no slight trouble; but he has been enabled to do it from having generally arranged his business, so as to be beforehand with the duties of the occasion. In this, his character is diametrically opposite to that of the late Duke of Newcastle; of whom George II. once said, that *he lost an hour* every morning, and was *running after it* all the rest of the day.

Of the alderman's simplicity of manners, integrity of mind, and private worth, much might be said—but *he lives*—and may his life and health be prolonged, and continue to be honourable to himself and useful to his fellow-citizens.

MR.

MR. GEORGE DYER.

THE subject of this memoir is descended from reputable parents; very early in life, he, himself, was sent to Christ's hospital, a most excellent institution, which has furnished the universities with admirable scholars, the church with many learned divines, the navy with able officers; and what, in a commercial nation like this, is no small praise, the exchange, with enterprising and successful merchants.

The youthful student discovered an astonishing attachment to books; and what, in such an institution, is no trifling distinction, actually got to the top of the school sooner than ever was known before his time*. This rare instance of assiduity, was accompanied by a passion, which but seldom attends on industry—a strong propensity for poetry. Pope, speaking of himself, says:

"As yet a child, nor yet a fool to fame,

"I lisp'd in numbers, for the numbers came."

This seems to have been also the case of George Dyer, with only this difference, that while the one wooed the muses in his vernacular tongue only, the other had likewise recourse to a foreign idiom, and addressed the daughters of Jupiter and Mnemosyne, in what is supposed to have been their native language. This classical taste, particularly his ardent attachment to the Greek and Latin authors, at length procured him a patron in the person of Dr. Askew, a physician of great fortune, and considerable influence; distinguished for his knowledge of Greek literature, and his valuable collection of

* It may not be amiss here to observe, that his masters were the Rev. Peter Whalley and Rev. James Penn, both known to the world, as literary men.

books and MSS. in the same language. Pleased with the early proficiency, and congenial disposition of the young man, he took an interest in his studies and pursuits; and presaging that he would distinguish himself at some future period, promised that he should see him amply provided for.— But, alas! such is the uncertainty of human life, that this worthy man was cut off soon after; and that, too, at a time, when his pupil only beheld the *blossoms*, and had not yet realised the *fruits* of expectation.

Notwithstanding this severe loss, he repaired to Cambridge; and, in consequence of the connexion above alluded to, chose Emanuel college, where his friend had been educated.

It may not be improper here to observe, that a considerable time previous to this epoch, Mr. Dyer acquired somewhat of a gloomy cast of mind, and connected himself with many of the sectaries. In consequence of this, the classics were no longer such favourites as before; *modern* religionists were resorted to, in preference to *heathen poets*; and even the ruling passion was suspended: for the muses and methodism do not assort well together!

During the greater part of his stay at Emanuel college, George led a retired life; frequenting only the company of some few men who happened to think like himself. His religious propensities do not seem, however, to have altogether relaxed his ardour for study, as his application was still conspicuous: though his mind revolted at the trammels of collegiate discipline. This is not all to be wondered at, when his *favourite pursuits* are recollected; for men of fervid imaginations are unwilling to subject themselves to the rigors of the Alexandrian school; and although Ptolemy, king of Egypt, disdained not to become the pupil of Euclid, yet but few poets or religionists have evinced a turn for mathematics. Indeed, such an aversion is not difficult to be accounted for: this sublime science is founded on *demonstration*, and it is
not

not on such a basis, that either the fancy of the one, or the superstition of the other, can possibly be erected.

Mr. D's studies were accordingly confined to Metaphysics, Theology, and the Classics. Some time before he had taken his degree, his mind began to range abroad, and to speculate freely, relative to systematic christianity, and abstract enquiries concerning first truths. If this propensity be not unfortunate, it is, at least, *unprofitable*; more especially to a young man like the present, all of whose hopes in life originated either from his college or the church. The consequence was, that after a fit of melancholy, the stern dictates of principle got the better of all interested views, and the theologian (for such he had now become) determined to overstep the threshold of the church.

All golden dreams of preferment being thus blasted in the very outset, by the breath of conscientious scruples, Mr. D. naturally turned his mind towards a situation, for which he seems to have been admirably adapted, both by the excellence of his education, and the placidness of his manners. Instructed himself, he, accordingly, determined to instruct others, and for some time assisted the Rev. Dr. Grimwood, who then kept a very respectable academy at Dedham, in Essex, from which he has lately retired.

But he at length determined to return to Cambridge, where he made an open avowal of his dissent from the established church. While at the university, he had become acquainted with a very extraordinary man, the Rev. Robert Robinson, the apostle of the Baptists, with whom he had for some time resided; at this period, he preached occasionally in his meeting-house, which almost faced Emanuel college; he also appeared frequently in the pulpits of others of the dissenting clergy, both at Cambridge, Oxford, &c.

After signalling himself in this manner for some time, without any particular adherence to creeds

or systems, Mr. D. at length determined to put a period to his mission.

Having repaired to Cambridge, he was encouraged to undertake a work on the subscription to the XXXIX articles of the church of England. Many of the dissenters countenanced the plan; and there were not wanting several even within the walls of the university who encouraged it, such as the Rev. Mr. Tyrwhitt, who actually introduced a grace for the removal of what he conceived to be an intolerable burden, Mr. Hammond, fellow of Queen's, and Mr. Friend, fellow of Jesus'.

Having now acquired a certain degree of reputation from his "Inquiry into the Nature of Subscriptions," &c. he determined to try his fortune in London. His first occupation in the capital required great memory, and some talents; these he possessed, but it was attended with a degree of drudgery that proved intolerable. He accordingly soon discovered, that the office of reporter of the debates in the House of Commons was unsuitable to his disposition; he therefore quickly relinquished it, and published a second edition of his book on subscription, greatly enlarged and improved. It is a miscellaneous composition, and abounds with politics, theology, metaphysics, criticisms on the scriptural text, an examination of the fathers, &c. About the same time he printed a volume of poems.

Mr. D. now formed an extensive acquaintance among men of letters, and engaged in the business of professional criticism, being at that time employed in writing for the Reviews; he also assisted gentlemen in acquiring, or regaining their knowledge of the classics.

It should be observed here, that on his arrival in the metropolis he threw off his black coat, and assumed, in all respects, a *secular appearance*, except in respect to his hair, which still favoured of the ecclesiastical tonsure: he, however, has lived long enough in the world to see even this become fashionable;

able ; for, after having been confined for some centuries to the clergy, it has been recently adopted by the *beau monde*.

On his coming to town, he found party disputes and opinions running very high ; but although he himself had been an orator in the pulpit, and was accustomed at times to speak *extempore*, yet he never delivered his sentiments in any society of the reformers ; for he seems to have considered himself in his *political noviciate*, and to have preserved the reserve, so rigorously enjoined to the disciples of the Samian sage. But although silent himself, he may have been said to have, literally, *opened the mouths of others* ; as he wrote several songs for political clubs, calculated to promote festivity, and relax the brow of care from the fatigues and disappointments of life.

Soon after the much-dreaded "Rights of Man," which had nearly effected a revolution in the political world, made its appearance, Mr. Dyer published the first edition of "The Complaints of the Poor People of England," with the motto of "*fiat justitia*." This must be confessed, even at that time, to have been a bold pamphlet ; now it would be *intolerable*, and might subject publisher, author, and, perhaps, printer, to the unfriendly greetings of his Majesty's Attorney-general !

His next work was a treatise on the "Theory and Practice of Benevolence," intended as an appendix to the former ; it contains some facts relative to the state-prisoners.

After this followed his "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Robert Robinson, late Minister of the Dissenting Congregation, in St. Andrew's Parish, Cambridge."

The next performance, of any size, by Mr. Dyer, appears to be "The Poet's Fate," produced in 1797, in which he traces in some very good lines, the sufferings and distresses of the votaries of the muses not only in modern, but also

—"In ancient times, long ere poor Butler sigh'd,
"Or dinnerless the polish'd Lovelace died."

This is to be followed by "Poetic Sympathies."

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He has published, besides those already enumerated, a Satirical Prologue to the celebrated Latin comedy of Ignoramus, in which he does not spare even *lawn sleeves*, when a proper occasion offers; and he has lately undertaken to print his poetical works, for which there is the promise of a handsome subscription.

On the whole, George Dyer must be allowed to be a singular character. In order to furnish his mind with facts, and gratify his eye with a pleasing romantic scenery, he undertook, and actually accomplished, a tour, principally, if not wholly, *on foot*, through the most interesting parts of England, Scotland, and Wales. No man in this country is more conversant with what may be termed the cradle and the grave of genius—the free-schools and the prisons of the island, most of which he has visited in person. The present state of his mind, in respect to religion, we are wholly unacquainted with; of all the ancient sects, however, he seems most to resemble the Peripatetics, who placed the *summum bonum*, “not in the pleasures of passive sensation, but in the due exercise of the moral and intellectual faculties.” Like them too, he has been accustomed to imbibe or retail instruction while he walked; and as this country has not, like Athens of old, a *Peripaton*, he frequently indulges in the street, or the public road.

There is another peculiarity observable in this gentleman: this consists in the rejection of all titles from his works; for which, he says, he has history, philosophy, and even Christianity on his side. He also observes very shrewdly in one of his publications, “that those artificial distinctions which originated in tyranny, and are perpetuated by custom, lie at the bottom of many serious evils that exist in society.” A.

MR. D'ISRAEL.

THIS gentleman is the only son of a respectable Italian merchant, who has long resided in this country, and who is well known and esteemed upon 'Change.

The early part of his youth was passed at the country residence of his father at Enfield, where he was sent to a neighbouring school. Here he learnt nothing but a little imperfect Latin; enough, however, to perceive that there were beauties in Virgil and Horace, which his pedagogue could not assist him in discerning and appreciating. After a residence of several years, the affectionate care of his parents assisted him with a variety of masters; but as he revolted against the discipline of elementary knowledge, it was resolved that he should be sent to a private seminary in the city of Amsterdam. A year had scarcely passed under his new tutor, when he became the master of his master. If he had made no progress in classical literature, he had now, however acquired a considerable knowledge of all the modern languages; he declaimed passages from the plays of the Spanish Calderon, the Lusiad of the Portuguese Camoens, the Jerusalem of Tasso, and particularly from the Henriade of Voltaire. He formed a passionate attachment to the higher class of French writers; he felt with all the energy of taste, the rich imagination and seductive periods of Rousseau, the pointed and brilliant diction of Voltaire, and the conciseness and delicacy of Montesquieu.

On returning to his native country, he again retired to the country-house of his father. He now indulged more extensively in an uninterrupted perusal of authors of taste. He saw, with pleasure, that he was neither adapted by nature nor designed by his friends for a commercial life. Having made a tour through France and Italy, he returned with a valuable collection of books, particularly in the French language. He now had a confirmed taste
for

for the literature of that refined and volatile people; and, as he has observed, among them he not only found works of taste, not elsewhere to be met with, but a vast resource for the *Materia Literaria*, which exists in no other nation.

The earliest performance avowedly by Mr. D'Israeli is "A Poetical Epistle on the Abuse of Satire," which was written, we understand, to gratify a certain man of letters, who was his neighbour, and who smarted under the scourge of Peter Pindar. As a first production, it exhibits his poetical talents to considerable advantage. This effusion afterwards procured him the friendship of Dr. Wolcott, who has not only encouraged his poetical efforts, by unequivocal marks of his approbation, but conferred on him still more useful services, by many proofs of his friendship.

In 1790, Mr. D'Israeli made a more formal appearance in public, by addressing a poem, entitled "A Defence of Poetry," to the present laureat. The whole edition, excepting the few copies sold, was burnt by the author; undeservedly, it seems, for the *Monthly Review* of March, 1791, gives it the following character:—

"Mr. D'Israeli is among the few modern poets who have attained their favour (the muses); they appear, from the testimony before us, to have distinguished him from the crowd, and to have allowed him a plenteous draught from their fountain of inspiration. He is not without a knowledge of the requisites of genuine poetry: his versification is elegant, flowing, and harmonious; nor can we read this specimen of his abilities, without perceiving that he has devoted his days and his nights to our immortal Pope."

In 1791, from these elevations of poetry, our author descended into the humble, but, with him, the agreeable and entertaining path of compilation. The first volume of his "Curiosities of Literature" was published anonymously; but the fascination of public favour induced him to prefix his name to the second. These compilations soon became popular, and have been a source of numerous imitations.

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The volumes form a rich repository of literary anecdote, and contain many original and well-written criticisms. The rapid sale of three large editions is the best proof of the public opinion.

As an original writer, he soon afterwards produced his "Dissertation on Anecdotes," of which work the Critical Review for January, 1794, observes, that

"This is an eccentric, an ingenious, and philosophical performance. The author, in a very masterly way, vindicates the detailer of anecdotes from the charge of being a literary trifler, and his remarks are extremely sensible and entertaining; they are given in a lively strain of reasoning, and form a very judicious and curious speculation."

This was followed by his "Essay on the Literary Character." The merits of this ingenious and original performance are too generally known to require any eulogium in this place.

In 1796, he produced a volume of Miscellanies; it is not so original as his two former productions, but the diction, as usual, is highly polished, and the anecdotes are uncommon and curious.

His last performance was a philosophical novel, in two volumes, under the title of "Vaurien." The chief object of this work was to satirize certain literary eccentricities and *monstrosities* which have lately been obtruded upon the public. Some of the game was doubtless fair: a few characters were, however, too much overstrained and caricatured to impress every reader with the justice of the attack. To exaggerate is the common failing of all satyrists and caricaturists, and Mr. D'Israeli may not, perhaps, have exceeded the usual licence.

He is at this time engaged upon a work, which, from a published specimen*, promises considerably to exalt his reputation as a fine writer. It is to consist of several romances, embellished with original poetry.

* Vide Monthly Magazine, page 368, May, 1798.

Mr. D'Israeli is unmarried, and at this time about thirty years of age. His habits and connexions are as strictly literary as those of any resident of the metropolis. Few persons read and write more; scarcely any compose with equal rapidity; and, if close application do not injure his health, the execution of some of his literary designs promise considerable future gratification to the public.

A. D.

THE REV. DAVID WILLIAMS.

THE life of this gentleman is not barren of incident, for unlike that of most men of letters, his has been active and enterprising; and very few of his movements have been accompanied with a correspondent effect.

Mr. Williams was born in Wales. His father's circumstances having become somewhat embarrassed, in consequence of some unsuccessful speculations in mines, he sought for refuge from the reflections incident to the state into which he had involved himself, and numerous family, by flying to the comforts of religion.

He at this time resided in Glamorganshire, where his son David was born; who, with his other children, were sent to a neighbouring school for education. Old Mr. Williams, by associating with the methodists, had imbibed their principles and enthusiasm; and resolved to train up his son to the church, probably intending him for a teacher among his sect, and, no doubt, expecting him to become one of its saints!

David discovered lively and promising abilities; but such as by no means qualified him for the station allotted him, to which, indeed, he had an insuperable repugnance. Yet a parent's dying injunctions

junctions controlled his resolution, and he went reluctantly through the preparatory forms of education, necessary to fit him for the dissenting ministry.

His first appearance, in the character of a preacher, was at Froome, in Somersetshire; where, although he could not conceal the dislike he entertained to the primness and preciseness of the dissenters; yet he soon made himself beloved and admired by his congregation. His reputation for abilities, spread so rapidly, that at the age of twenty-two, he was invited to Exeter, as the successor of two celebrated pastors; and he underwent the requisite formalities of ordination, in order to qualify him for the ministry in the Arian congregation there.

Soon after this, he embarked in a plan which originated at Liverpool, to introduce a Socinian liturgy among the dissenters. A society, for this purpose, had been founded at the Octagon chapel there, by the persons who had conceived the design; and Mr. Williams soon persuaded his congregation to adopt it; this affords no common instance of their attachment to him! In that city, he might have lived an easy and agreeable life; but he at length became disgusted at some hypocritical schemes, discovered by him, and actually determined to quit the West of England.

On his arrival in London, he received some distinguished civilities from the dissenters, and did duty at one of their congregations at Highgate, until he had prepared a plan of education which he meant to carry into practice.

While at Highgate, he preached a course of "Sermons on Religious Hypocrisy," which he published in two volumes, 8vo. In 1770, he wrote a poignant "Letter to Mr. Garrick, on his conduct and talents as manager and performer;" this was followed by a work called "the Philosopher," consisting of three polemical conversations; with dedications

dedications to Lord Mansfield, and the bishop of Gloucester.

When a respectable body of clergy, chiefly dissenters, met at the Feathers tavern, to petition for relief in the subscription to the thirty-nine articles, Mr. Williams was applied to, and at their solicitation, drew up some "Essays on public Worship, Patriotism, and Projects of Reformation;" which were printed and published, but are said to contain sentiments approximating more towards deism than his employers wished. An appendix was added afterwards, which is peculiarly severe on the conduct of the dissenters, with whom he afterwards broke off all connexion.

About the year 1773, he brought forward his plan of education, founded on the outline given by Comenius, when he was invited here, to reform the English schools; and whose design was frustrated by the civil wars. Mr. Williams distinguished himself, on this occasion, in such a manner, that although he was a stranger in the neighbourhood; and his religious tenets lay under some imputation among the orthodox, yet he met with great encouragement. The *honorarium* of his pupils was high; but, notwithstanding this, their number was considerable. He was now in a fair way of making his fortune, and of introducing a more rational and easy mode of education; when, at this critical period, he lost his wife, a loss, which, notwithstanding all his philosophical fortitude, he was unable to support: he accordingly fled both from his habitation and institution, to take shelter in the remote part of Derbyshire, where, for some time, he indulged his melancholy.

While at Chelsea, he published a Treatise on Education, in a duodecimo volume; which contains some uncommonly acute and judicious remarks on that subject, and discloses his sentiments with respect to revealed religion.

During his residence there, the celebrated Dr. Franklin, with whom he was intimate, took refuge
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in his house, from the storm he apprehended would follow Mr. Wedderburne's unwarranted attack on him at the council-board; an event which is said to have had more effect towards the crisis which soon followed, than can be easily imagined. And here, we are assured it was that the philosopher of Pennsylvania, concerted with his friend the plan of a deistical and philosophical lecture. This scheme was, at length, carried into practice; for on his return to London, Mr. Williams opened a chapel in Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, in which he was supported by several persons of consequence and fortune, &c. &c. The complexion of his discourses, was, however, neither relished by churchmen nor dissenters; accordingly, although many went to hear him, few enrolled their names as members.

While officiating in this capacity, he published the Inauguration Sermon, two volumes of Lectures on the Universal Principles of Religion and Morality, and a Liturgy for the Chapel. Notwithstanding a variety of obstacles, he continued his labours, during a period of nearly four years; but as the subscribers did not increase, he removed to a private room, where he delivered his opinions before those who supported the institution. His society was, indeed, small; but it was as respectable as any in England.

Mr. Williams's other publications consist of a pamphlet on "The Nature and Extent of Intellectual Liberty;" "A Plan of Association, on Constitutional Principles," a tract written at the time of the riots in London; "Letters on Political Liberty;" occasioned by the county meetings and associations, in 1782; "Lectures on Political Principles," and "Lectures on Education;" and, a "History of Monmouthshire," in one volume, 4to.

Several anonymous works have been attributed to Mr. Williams, such as "Royal Recollections;" but it is so infinitely beneath his abilities, that no
one

one of his friends can allow it to be his. The "Lessons to a Young Prince," and "An Apology for professing the Religion of Nature in the eighteenth Century," may possibly have come from his pen, and they are not unworthy of it. Some of the above works, which must be allowed to possess a large share of intrinsic merit, shew that Mr. W. had early turned his thoughts to political enquiries; and this important branch of knowledge is said to have been first suggested to his mind, in consequence of his assistance having been called for, in some parliamentary transactions.

His opinions and political opinions at length connected him intimately with the popular party in this country, and his celebrity recommended him to the notice of the *Girondists* in France, who invited him over to assist them in the formation of the constitution. He was intimately acquainted with Brissot * while in England; and this journey, which introduced him to the friendship of all the great political leaders of the day, was not unaccompanied with some personal danger: for, as he recommended mercy to the king, the Jacobins branded him with the title of royalist, and he was actually denounced as such in their club. Mr. Williams saw so clearly the designs of this faction, and was so certain of the result, that he foretold to their opponents, when he parted with them, that, if they did not destroy the Jacobins, the Jacobins would soon destroy them†.

Soon

* Brissot first became acquainted with Mr. Williams in consequence of the writings of the latter. On his return to his native country, amidst the turmoils of one of the most wonderful revolutions that ever agitated mankind, he consulted Mr. W. as his oracle, and was forewarned by him of his danger. Had he followed his advice, the present situation of France, and, indeed, of Europe, might have been more auspicious!

† The celebrated Madame Roland speaks highly of the political talents of Mr. Williams, in many parts of her very animated work.

"Paine,"

Soon after his return, a very extraordinary instance of the offence he had given to a certain quarter occurred. He had been engaged by Mr. Bowyer, of Pall Mall, to write the History of England, from the Revolution to the present time; this was designed as a continuation of Hume, and was to be ornamented with superb plates. The first artists in the kingdom were employed on the occasion, and Mr. Williams's name was announced in the prospectus, evidently written by himself. But this engagement with the public was broken, after the intended author had made every necessary arrangement incident to so grand an undertaking. In short, he was informed by Mr. Bowyer, that his services *must* be dispensed with, in consequence of certain intimations of the displeasure of a great personage! Mr. Bowyer, however, found that a compromise was necessary to protect him from a suit in chancery.

We have now detailed some of the events, by which the life of this extraordinary man has been marked. What his employment may be at present, is not generally known, but he still continues to distinguish himself by his laudable exertions in support of a most useful institution, "The Literary

"Paine," says she, "is better calculated to produce a revolution, than to assist in the formation of a constitution. He seizes, he establishes, those grand principles, the exposition of which strikes every one at first sight, ravishes a club, and produces enthusiasm at a tavern; but for the cool discussion of a committee, for the connected labours of the legislator, I consider

DAVID WILLIAMS

"as infinitely more proper.

"Williams, although, like him, created a French citizen, was not nominated to the convention, where he would have proved infinitely more useful. But the government invited him to Paris, where he passed some months, and conversed often with the principal deputies.

"A sage thinker, a real friend to mankind, he appeared to me to combine their modes of happiness, as well as Paine described those evils that constituted their misery."

"Fund,"

Fund," of which he is said to be the founder; and is supposed to be occupied during the session, by parliamentary students.

Against so bold, so manly, and so able an advocate in behalf of civil and religious liberty, much malignity has occasionally been displayed; to deprecate such malignity, or defend him from the attacks of the enemies of such principles, would be superfluous, because it would be unnecessary. We leave the friend of Franklin, and Roland, to defend himself, whenever an assailant shall appear worthy of such a contest.

GILBERT WAKEFIELD, B.A.

THIS gentleman boasts a name well known in the annals of classical literature; and it is also intimately connected with the questions that have lately agitated the minds of the THINKING part of the community, on the subject of religion; nor has it been without celebrity in the field of political controversy. Respecting such a person, the opinions of his fellow citizens will be as various, perhaps, as their principles. Our judgment, too often, *Cameleon-like*, borrows its decisions from the hue of party; and, unfortunately, we are never less candid, than when political and religious enmities warp around, and pervert the mind from its natural bias towards justice.

An outline of Mr. Wakefield's life has already been laid before the public by himself*, and from it we learn, "that he was introduced into this planet on February 22d, 1756, in the parsonage-house of St. Nicholas, in Nottingham, of which

* "Memoirs of the Life of Gilbert Wakefield, B. A."
1 vol. 8vo. 1792.

church his father was then rector." It appears that his paternal grandmother claimed her descent both from the Russell family, the illustrious head of which, in the reign of the second Charles, bled for the cause of freedom; and that great lawyer, Sir Edward Coke, the latter part of whose life was devoted to the liberties of his country. With such progenitors, added to a spirit of liberal enquiry, it is but little wonder that he should dare to think for himself, and become a stickler for the popular cause!

On his origin, however, Mr. W. does not seem to plume himself:

"Malo pater tibi sit Therſites, dummodò tu ſis.

"Æacidæ ſimilis, Vulcaniaque arma capeſſas;

"Therſitæ ſimilem quàm te producat Achilles."

"Give me Therſites' ſon, who bravely wields

"Vulcanian armour in embattled fields,

"Before Therſites of Achilles' line;

"Degenerate offspring of a ſire divine!"

From his earlieſt infancy, the ſubject of theſe memoirs appears to have evinced a diſpoſition of mind uncommonly grave and ſerious. In addition to this, he diſplayed an ardent thirſt for knowlege, ſeldom equalled, perhaps never ſurpaſſed in any human boſom; and what is truly wonderful, it has always continued unimpaired to this hour. At the age of three years and three months, when he went to the ſchool of an ancient female, ſtill in exiſtence, he could ſpell the longeſt words, repeat his catechiſm without hesitation, and read the goſpels with fluency;—for this early proficiency, he was indebted to the attention of a kind mother. During the following Whitiſuntide holidays, and at Chriſtmas in the ſame year, he diſplayed a memory equally precocious.

When he had attained his ſeventh year, he was initiated in the Latin language, at the free-ſchool of Nottingham, under the Reverend Dr. Samuel Beardmore,

Beardmore, afterwards master of the Charterhouse; but to this respectable scholar and gentleman, whom he characterises "as an acrimonious divine," he disavows any obligations whatever, and, after a lapse of thirty years, he still recollects his threats.

At the age of nine he was removed to Wilford, near Nottingham, then under the direction of a preceptor of different character, a man of unparalleled simplicity of manners; he erred, however, in being "righteous overmuch," for he subjected the pupils to a rigorous confinement, of no less than thirteen hours daily: with the intermission of only one hundred and twenty minutes, for breakfast and dinner. This practice is unfavourable to health, and militates against the salutary maxim of the Roman poet:

"Et puer es; nec te quicquam, nisi ludere, oportet;
"Lude; decent annos mollia regna tuos."

On the elder Mr. Wakefield's promotion to the vicarage of Kingston, he was removed from restraints too irksome, even for a boy of his application, and placed under his father's curate. There, again, he was unfortunate, for his new preceptor proved to be one of those "pedagogical Jehus," satirised by a great English* divine; and, indeed, it is not a little remarkable, when the importance of the subject is considered, how few are qualified for the task of instruction, and how careless parents in general are, respecting the choice of those who are to form the infant minds of their offspring.

At the age of thirteen, Mr. Wakefield, at length, found in the person of the Rev. Richard Woodde-son, father of the present Vinerian professor, a preceptor better suited to his taste, at least so far as discipline was concerned. His academy seemed a

* See the discourse on "Education," (in his printed sermons, 6 vol. 8vo.) by Dr. Robert South, public orator of the university of Oxford, prebendary of Westminster, &c. &c. an able man, and a great time-server, but who could not get a bishoprick!

kind of *hot-bed* for seedling authors; Messrs. Steevens, Keate, Gibbon, Hayley, and Baron Maseres, being all nurtured there; yet he himself, hardly ever published any thing, and his store of latinity does not appear to have been great; but he possessed a benignant temper, and although armed with a *ferula* to the full as awful as the sceptre of a despot, his was a gentle reign.

After tasting the streams of Greek and Roman literature at their fountain head, his parents began to think of sending him to the university, on which a studentcy in Christ-church, Oxford, was offered him; this he *luckily* escaped, in consequence of his father's predilection for his own college; and it still seems to afford a subject of exultation to the son, even in his riper years; as "orthodox theology, high church politics, and passive obedience to the powers that be, sit enthroned," according to him, in a seminary, once "nutrix heroum," the venerable nurse of Somers, Hales, Selden, Chillingworth, and Locke.

At length he obtained a scholarship in Jesus College, Cambridge; and it so happened, that he exactly suited the intention of the founder, who preferred "the son of a living clergyman, born at Nottingham," both of which conditions, as may have been observed, happened to be united in him.

As soon as he was settled at the university. Mr. W. resumed his classical studies, which had suffered a long suspension, in consequence of a putrid sore throat and fever, followed by a vacation of several months. The college lectures in algebra and logic, were, however, particularly odious to him. So enamoured was he of classic ground, that it was long before he could prevail upon himself to approach the less inviting regions of science and philosophy. At last, however, he overcame his prejudices, and actually opened Euclid, "The old Carpenter," as he was jocularly termed by a young man, who, like himself, had become a mathematician by compulsion.

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During a five years continuance at Cambridge, he rose by five o'clock in the morning, during both winter and summer; but notwithstanding this, which implies a severe attention to study, he was fond of society at his meals.

In the third year of his residence, he became a candidate for Dr. Browne's three medals, and accordingly produced a couple of odes in Greek and Latin, and also a pair of epigrams; the first and last exercises, according to his own opinion, were unworthy of the reward, but he thought he was hardly used respecting the Horatian ode; and had not the son of Dr. Cooke, then provost of King's, been a claimant at the same time, it is highly probable, that he would have succeeded.

His academical studies had hitherto refused leisure for theological enquiries; a branch of learning, which his native seriousness of disposition, and his spirit of enquiry rendered peculiarly apposite. At last, during the long vacation of 1775, he began to cultivate Hebrew, without the aid of which, he deemed an acquaintance with the text of the new testament impossible.

On January 16th, 1776, he took his degree of B. A. with seventy-four other candidates for academical honours; and, on this occasion, he was nominated to the second post. Soon after this, (April 16th,) he was elected fellow; and, in the course of the same year, he printed at the university-press, a small collection of latin poems, with a few notes on Horace, by way of appendix.

In 1777, he obtained the second of the four yearly prizes, presented by the members for the university. In 1778, he finished an exercise, at inns, &c. during a journey, which he had begun at college; this he trusted to the fidelity of a cross-country waggoner, and first learned his success through the medium of a London newspaper! He thus appears to have been *second* wrangler, *second* medallist, and the *second* in the bachelor's prize for both years.

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On the 22d of March, 1778, he was ordained a deacon by Dr. Hinchcliffe, bishop of Peterborough, in the chapel of Trinity college, at the age of twenty-two years and one month. It would appear, that previously to this period, the student had enquired into the nature and tendency of subscription, having since regarded his acquiescence, in this point, as the most disingenuous action of his whole life; and stigmatised some of the articles, as "unsufferably stupid, beyond the sottishness of even Hottentot divinity."

On April 14th, Mr. W. left the university for the curacy of Stockport, in Cheshire.

He did not, however, remain long here, for we find him, soon after, with his brother at Richmond, decidedly averse to the renewal of subscription, and embarrassed at the idea of ecclesiastical functions.

It is not a little remarkable, that Mr. W. seems, on this occasion, to have been nearly in the same dilemma, in which a member of the very same university, and assuredly the greatest genius of his age, found himself about a century and a half before; for Milton thus expresses himself, without any scruple on the occasion, to a correspondent who wished him to take orders, "to which," says he, "by the intention of my parents, and my friends, I was destined of a child, and in mine own resolutions, till coming to some maturity of years, and perceiving what tyranny had invaded the church, that he who would take orders, must subscribe slave, and take an oath withall, which, unless he took, with a conscience that could retch, he must either strait perjure or split his faith; I thought it better to prefer a blameless silence before the office of speaking, bought and begun with servitude and forswearing *."

Every conscientious resolution, more especially when in evident opposition to self-interest, favours

* "Reason of Church Government, B. II. p. 41. edit. 1641, in 4to." See also the Hollis edition of Milton's prose works, page 6.

of magnanimity; and such was actually the case in both instances. Shut out from church preferment by principle, Mr. W. bethought himself of a less lucrative situation, and accordingly applied for Breewood-school, in Staffordshire, which he most probably would have *obtained*, had it not been, that, even in this institution, subscription was actually necessary, as if education were indissolubly connected with the established faith!

Soon after this disappointment, he accepted a curacy at Liverpool; and having here probed the creed of his forefathers to the quick, his resolution of detaching himself altogether from the church, became daily strengthened; notwithstanding this, he continued to preach a little longer, and his discourses seem to have had such an effect, even in that place, that one merchant (wonderful to tell!) was actually persuaded, at the intercession of his wife, to sell his share in a privateer. Would to God, that he could have prevailed on the people of this second Nineveh to have relinquished their traffic in human blood!

On March 23d, 1779, he vacated his fellowship by marriage.

About the same time, he exchanged the curacy of St. Peter's for that of St. Paul's, where he had more leisure for his studies; from a humble attempt to establish a day-school, he was diverted by an offer of the tutorship of the classical department at Warrington academy, in Lancashire, whither he removed in August, 1779. In this seminary, where he seems to have lived in great cordiality with his colleagues, he commenced his theological career, as an author, by a new translation of "the first Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians," which appeared in 1781. A few months after, he published his "Essay on Inspiration," on which subject, he seems to agree with Dr. Geddes, the translator of the Bible; then his treatise on "Baptism," begun and completed in nine days. Next year, his "New Translation of St. Matthew," with notes, &c. made
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its appearance; and this was finished within the compass of a few weeks.

In addition to these labours, he cultivated his acquaintance with the original Hebrew text of the Old Testament, learned the Syriac and the Chaldee, acquired the Samaritan character, read the Pentateuch therein, and the Syro-Chaldaic version of it; to these were added the Æthiopic, Arabic, and Persian; lastly, he obtained a facility in the Coptic version of the New Testament, and made some improvements in the lexicon and grammar of that language. When to all this are added the daily avocations of a teacher, he must be allowed to have achieved more than Herculean labours!

On the dissolution of the Warrington academy, a removal took place in the autumn of 1783, to Bramcote, within four miles of Nottingham, where Mr. W. endeavoured, but in vain, to procure a few respectable pupils. In this rural retreat, he published the first volume of "An Enquiry into the Opinions of the Christian Writers of the three first Centuries, concerning the Person of Jesus Christ;" but notwithstanding the commendation of many excellent judges, he was not encouraged by the sale, to proceed with the continuation.

In May, 1784, we find him a second time fixed at Richmond, advertising for pupils, and renewing his applications to his friends. At Michaelmas, we again hear of him in his native town of Nottingham, and there he had three or four pupils under his care for several years, on very handsome terms; and about this time, he was elected an honorary member of the Philosophical Society of Manchester, in consequence of his "Essay on the Origin of Alphabetical Characters."

In 1786, he was seized with a pain in his left shoulder, and remained ill for two years, during which period he seems to have soothed his mind by "Remarks" on Mr. Gray's poems, and a new edition of the Georgics of Virgil, accompanied with
criticisms.

criticisms. In the beginning of 1788, he attacked Dr. Horsley, whom he designates as "not the least conceited and audacious controversialist of ancient or modern days;" and in the autumn of the same year, he let off a sly cracker against the church, under the title of "Four Marks of Antichrist, or a Supplement to the Warburtonian Lecture."

The year 1789 ushered in his "Remarks on the Internal Evidence of the Christian Religion;" and also the first part of "Silva Critica;" the latter, which is from the Cambridge press, was published with a view to unite theological with classical learning, and to illustrate the scriptures by light borrowed from the philology of Greece and Rome.

On the establishment of the new college at Hackney, Mr. W. was deemed a proper person to fill the office of classical instructor; and he was at length appointed to this station, in July, 1790. His connexion, however, with the institution, was dissolved at the end of eleven months, having retired in June, 1791: the seminary did not long survive the loss.

Towards the latter end of the same year, appeared his "New Translation of the Testament, with Notes," in three volumes, 8vo.; in a few weeks after, he published his pamphlet on "Religious Worship; and in March, 1792, he favoured the world with "Memoirs of his own Life."

After a pretty considerable interval, in 1794, appeared "The Spirit of Christianity compared with the Spirit of the Times in Great Britain;" this is a politico-religious pamphlet, in which the author, with a manly freedom, enquires how far the public measures of the government, in the origin and continuance of the present war, are congenial to the precepts and the spirit of the gospel.—Much about the same time, appeared the first volume of a new edition of "The Works of Alexander Pope, Esq. with Remarks and Illustrations." On this occasion, notwithstanding his taste for the poets

poets of antiquity, he allows that Pope sometimes transcends even the original, particularly in the following four lines in his translation of Homer, describing the buckler of Achilles :

“ Thus the broad shield completè the artist crown’d
 “ With his last hand, and pour’d the ocean round :
 “ In living silver seem’d the waves to roll,
 “ And beat the buckler’s verge, and bound the whole.”

“ This is truly poetry to the life,” added he :

“ Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn.”

The same year also beheld “ An Examination of the Age of Reason,” in which, although Mr. W. boldly and ably defended christianity, yet by conceding such parts of the system as were unsupportable by sound reason, and more especially by considering *national churches* not only “ as hay and straw, which might be removed without any difficulty, or confusion, from the fabric of religion,” but as an “ incrustation which has enveloped, by gradual concretion, the diamond of christianity,” he gave offence rather than satisfaction to the established clergy, who did not choose that even their faith should be defended at the expence of their tythes. This was soon followed by “ Remarks on the general Orders of the Duke of York,” in which, although the author still contends against the justice of the war, he is yet candid enough to allow the conduct of his Royal Highness, on this occasion, to have been great and magnanimous.

In 1795, appeared a small volume of “ Poetical translations from the Ancients,” and also “ A Reply to Thomas Paine’s second Part of the Age of Reason,” in which the best friends of Mr. W. while they allowed his talents, lamented that he did not defend christianity with more of its genuine spirit. The author himself dissented from the dissenters—and why could he not allow another man to dissent from him ?

Persevering

Persevering with unabated ardor in his career, in 1796, came forth his "Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, Esq. to a noble Lord;" in which he once more exhibited himself as a dauntless champion in the field of liberty, against a man whose rapturous eloquence had formerly excited his warmest panegyrics. He also published an 8vo. volume of "Observations on Pope," in the course of the same year.

"A Letter to Jacob Bryant, Esq. concerning his Dissertation on the War of Troy," at length appeared; however heterodox the author might be in matters of faith, he was a zealous oppugner of all heresies from the received classico-orthodoxical opinion. Another letter, on a very different subject, addressed to Mr. Wilberforce, respecting his "Practical View of the prevailing religious System of professed Christianity, &c." was published in 1797. In this, he exhibits the flagrant falling off in point of "vital christianity!" between the religionist and the politician, the favourer of war, and the opposer of the slave trade. In a former publication*, he had most forcibly characterised the same gentleman, "as a politico-theological satyr, with one breath cooling the burning anguish of the African, and with another in the same instant blasting the spring from the year, by giving his vote to an abandoned minister, for the extirpation of half the youth of Europe by the sword!"

Early in 1798, appeared "A Reply to some parts of the Bishop of Landaff's Address to the People of Great Britain." This pamphlet, which exhibits much personal respect to Dr. Watson, has become a Pandora's box, and produced an infinite variety of evils; it has been even thought to commit the safety of the state. Two convictions have already taken place, on the part of two booksellers, neither of whom were the original publishers;

* "A Reply to the Letter of Edmund Burke, Esq. to a noble Lord."

and it is not a little memorable, that it appeared, on the oath of an unobjectionable witness, that one of these (a man of unimpeachable morals, and most respectable character), was ignorant of the introduction of the pamphlet in question, into his shop, which happened to be brought thither on the suggestion of a servant, and was actually removed by the master, on hearing that it had been deemed libellous*.

It is but justice, however, to observe, that Mr. Wakefield came forward, on the prosecution of the original publisher †: and manfully offered to immolate himself to the resentment of the law officers of the crown:

“ ————— in me convertite ferrum,

“ O! Rutuli! mea fraus omnis:—nihil iste nec ausus,

“ Nec potuit —————.”

This *boon* being denied, he soon after addressed “ A Letter to Sir John Scott, on the subject of a late trial in Guildhall.” On that occasion, either not finding a bookseller, who would endanger his liberty, or not wishing to bring any person but himself into jeopardy, the pamphlet was advertised to be sold at his *own house*. In this publication he complains, in language which has given great offence, that the Attorney-general had wielded “ the sword of the law,” with stern severity; and in reply to an extra-judicial opinion from the bench, he sets the saying of an Athenian lawgiver, in opposition to the opinion of a British judge.

Undaunted by the threats of prosecution † uttered in open court, and before his own face, by Sir John Scott, Mr. Wakefield, since this epoch, has

* The writer of this memoir was present in court, and lamented greatly, that Mr. Erskine did not make his chief stand on the grand distinction between the agency of a servant, *civiliter* and *criminaliter*, as the principal is implicated only in the first, and not in the second instance, which includes *libels*.

† Mr. Cuthell.

He has since been served with an information *ex officio*.

been

been employed in a controversy with a Dr. Glasse, respecting the prison in Cold Bath-fields. Certainly the spirit of our laws disclaims every idea of torture, in respect to all persons, and close imprisonment in regard to political offenders in particular. Indeed, the latter, during the reign of Charles I. became the subject of enquiry and complaint, and was at length redressed. In other days, the rumours that have gone forth, concerning this newly-invented mode of duress, would long, ere this, have become a subject of parliamentary investigation; and it is to be hoped, that even the present age is not so degenerate, if a real grievance should be found to exist, as to permit our mild, humane, and excellent code to be perverted with impunity.

Mr. Wakefield at present resides at Hackney, with his amiable family, consisting of a wife, formerly Miss Watson (niece to his quondam rector), four sons and two daughters. In person, he is about the middle size; and there is an air of primitive simplicity in his countenance and somewhat of an *apostolic* cast about his face, arising, perhaps, in some degree, from his high and polished forehead, and the baldness of his front and temples.

In conversation he is remarkably mild and gentle, and his manners are pleasing. His memory is so uncommonly tenacious, that it can retain minute facts, and even dates, after a considerable lapse of time. No man is more beloved and respected by a very extensive circle of acquaintance. His personal activity is equal to that of his mind and pen. His habits are strictly domestic and literary. He is a pattern of abstemiousness, and shares in its happy results, never partaking of strong liquors; and from a laudable principle of humanity, totally abstaining from the use of animal food. Mr. W. must, even by his enemies if they know him personally, be pronounced to be a man whose conduct is solely actuated by principle, and an inflexible love of virtue. He may err, but his

his faults are not the depravity of his heart—they can only result from too ardent an imagination, or from the mistakes of his judgment.

A. S.

MR. OPIE.

NEITHER the parents, nor the education, nor the fortune of this eminent artist, would have conferred on him any distinction in society, and like the English painters of the last century, he might have worked at so much by the *square yard*, had not nature conferred on him a portion of genius that soon distinguished him from the vulgar herd.

Seemingly doomed, by inevitable circumstances, to work at the bottom of a saw-pit, or on the roof of a house, just as the avocations of a country carpenter required, he yet found means to emerge from that situation, and to move in a respectable sphere in life. The late George Anderson, A. M. and Accountant-general to the Board of Control, contrived by chalking a few mathematical figures on the door of his brother's barn, in which he threshed, to engage the attention of a benevolent patron, and to extricate himself from his mental bondage.

A similar accident discovered the bent of John Opie's mind, and a painted board effected for him what a chalked gate had done for his acquaintance, as Dr. Wolcott, who had himself a taste for drawing, and lived in the neighbourhood, happened to see, and was pleased with the labours of the self-taught boy, of whom he, perhaps, exclaimed :

“NON SINE DIIS ANIMOSUS PUER !”

He accordingly took him under his protection, cultivated his talents, pointed his efforts, and taught him to aspire to fame and fortune. The
master

master, with an aptitude bordering on the romantic had transformed himself from a surgeon to a clergyman, and he now, with almost unexampled goodness, metamorphosed the apprentice of a carpenter into an historical painter. *

After some previous instruction, the pupil repaired to Exeter, where he began to earn a livelihood by his pencil. He then changed his place of abode, from a provincial city to the capital, and successively removed from a little court in the neighbourhood of Leicester fields, first to Great Queen-street, and then to the politer air, and more fashionable situation, of Berners-street. He had been four or five years in the metropolis, however, before he began to exhibit, as it was not until 1786, that any of his pictures appeared at Somerset-house.

From that moment wealth and reputation seemed to attend his efforts; he first was nominated an academician elect, then a member of the Royal Academy, and what was infinitely more profitable, became a "fashionable painter." For the Shakspeare gallery he executed several pictures, and is generally allowed to excel in historical compositions.

His beggars, old men, old women, and assassins, are admirable. The portrait of Mrs. Wolstoncraft, painted by him, excelled in verisimilitude; but his characteristical excellence consists in strength; and Reynolds himself, although he is praised for having transferred the soul into the countenance, could never give, perhaps, so bold and spirited a likeness of the male head, as Opie.

This artist has been twice married. His first match was unpropitious, and did not add much to his felicity; his second wife (late Miss Alderson, of Norwich) is a most accomplished, and no less beau-

* It has been improperly suggested by the writer of the account of Dr. Wolcott, while mentioning the unfortunate coolness that took place, some censure was due to Mr. Opie; but we learn that no such thing was meant, either to be insinuated, or asserted; and if it had been, that it was quite undeserved.

tiful woman ; and we trust that the union of painting and literature will contribute to the mutual happiness of the parties.

LORD ROKEBY.

(With a Prefatory Dissertation on Beards.)

THE *human beard*, at present deemed an unseemly excrescence, was considered by all the nations of antiquity as one of the greatest ornaments of the person ; and gods, as well as mortals, were supposed to be decorated with this emblem of wisdom and virility. That of Aaron is described as flowing to his girdle, and the ambassadors of David, after having received the nearly indelible affront of being *shaved*, were advised to remain at a distance from the capital, until their beards had grown to the proper length. In many of the eastern countries this is still considered as a necessary, and even a beautiful appendage ; and while the Turks carefully cover with their turbans, the hair that grows on their heads, they preserve, comb, perfume, and ostentatiously display, that which springs from the chin.

The northern nations seem also to have evinced a great veneration for their beards, and it is not yet much above a century since these have fallen into obloquy and disuse even in this country ; they are, however, still retained by the *serfs* in Russia and Poland, and by the *boors* in Norway.

In our own island, the upper lips and chins of the northern barons in the train of the Conqueror, exhibited a small portion of beard, and the Saxo-Britons, who opposed them, had theirs still better ornamented. After the introduction of linen, which was but little known in this country before the

the conquest, beards seem to have disappeared by degrees, as if comporting only with the frowzy covering of a flannel shirt. We still, however, find vestiges of them even in more modern periods. That of James I. appears to have been broad and bushy. During the civil wars, Charles I. is both painted and described as wearing a narrow-pointed beard appended to the lower part of his chin, and *mustachios* on the upper lip; the great Algernon Sydney appears in the plate engraved by Basire, from a drawing of Cipriani, prefixed to the Hollis' edition of his works, to have worn *mustachios** only; but most of the republicans of that day seem to have nursed their beards in proportion as they polled their heads.

Both the French and Austrians appear of late to have considered whiskers as an appendage to the military dress, and from the inroads they have lately made in this country, on the human face, it bids fair to be soon nearly as much shaded by them as it was formerly by the beards.

These preliminary remarks will not appear totally misplaced, perhaps, to such as are acquainted with the person of the noble lord whose memoirs are here offered to the public, as his beard forms one of the most conspicuous *traits* of his person; and he is the only peer, and, perhaps, the only gentleman of either Great Britain or Ireland, who is thus distinguished.

MATTHEW ROBINSON, Baron Rokeby of the kingdom of Ireland, and also a baronet, is descended from a very old and respectable family, being a branch of the Robinsons of Struan, in Scotland, whence his ancestors emigrated about one hundred and fifty years since, and settled in Kent; they soon after acquired some lands in the north riding of Yorkshire, which came to them by an in-

* The celebrated Sir William Temple, who flourished at a later period, is painted by Sir Peter Lely with *whiskers*.

termarriage with the heiress of Robert Walters, of Cundall, in the latter end of the last century.

Sir Septimus Robinson, Knt. father of the present peer, was gentleman-usher to George II. He gave his son, Matthew, a most excellent education; but it was, perhaps, never suspected by the old courtier that he would become one of the most sturdy patriots of his age, a "Whig," according to the real meaning of the word, and as such, an assertor of the true principles of English liberty, which called in William III. and placed the present illustrious family on the throne. After a good foundation of classical learning, he sent him to Cambridge, where he remained for several years; and he appears to have made considerable progress in his studies; for he procured a fellowship there, which he retains to this day.

In 1754, he succeeded, on the death of his father, to his estate in East Kent, and appears to have lived at his mansion there, with all the easy affluence, hospitality, and splendor, that characterised the English gentry of that day, when a land-tax at about two shillings in the pound, and a trifling malt-tax, constituted their only burdens. During the winter, part of his time was spent in the capital; and in the summer season, he was accustomed to pass away a month or two at Sandgate castle, where he enjoyed a charming prospect of the coast of France; while sea-bathing, to which he was much addicted, was to be had there in great perfection.

In consequence of his vicinity to Canterbury, and a family connexion with that place*, he had many opportunities of cultivating an intimacy with the principal inhabitants. Being a man of engaging manners, shrewd sense, and independent fortune,

* This, until of late, was carefully kept up; his brother, Charles, who had been originally bred to the sea, but afterwards became a lawyer, having been successively Recorder, and one of the members for that city.

they

they determined to nominate him their representative on the first vacancy. He was accordingly brought into parliament by them, and he faithfully discharged all the important duties annexed to that situation for a long series of years.

We find Mr. Robinson, during the whole of the American war, one of the most strenuous opposers of a measure pregnant with gigantic mischief, and which by the enormous increase of our national debt, generated oppressive taxes, and became the parent of incalculable misfortunes to ourselves and our posterity. Not content with opposing Lord North with his voice in the senate, he entered the lists against him with his pen, and published a pamphlet pregnant with sound sense, manly argument, and liberal sentiment. In fine, it was then looked upon as one of the most able productions of that day; and it struck the author of this narrative, who borrowed it some years since from one of his relatives, as a kind of *political prophecy*, of the calamities which actually arose out of a system of taxation without representation, and coercion without power.

He lived long enough to see all his predictions verified. Our legions either withered away in a distant country, or, if victorious, they only retained in subjection such portions of territory as were covered with soldiery, or immediately adjoined the spot on which they encamped;—all else was hostile. Conquest itself became precarious, and defeat was inevitably attended with the endless variety of evils incident to disaster in an enemy's country. At length Burgoyne was captured at Saratoga; France declared herself in favour of the insurgent colonies; Holland and Spain became our enemies; Cornwallis, who has since fought under better auspices in India and Ireland, laid down his arms to Rochambeau and Washington; and a bleeding and exhausted empire was obliged to accede to the humiliating, but necessary, preliminary of American independence.

The

The escape of all the authors of that disastrous conflict from punishment, and the speedy restoration of one* of them to power, disgusted many good men of that day; and it required, indeed, but little foresight to presage the many evils with which *impunity* was connected. Mr. Robinson appears to have entertained these, or similar sentiments, and to have retired from the scene with a degree of virtuous indignation highly appropriate and becoming.

What contributed to this, perhaps, was his bodily infirmities. From his youth he had been subject to many severe fits of illness, and, in addition to these, his hearing and his sight were considerably affected. In this state of body and mind, he deemed it highly improper for him any longer to occupy a seat in parliament, as he could not either discharge his duties with fidelity to his constituents, or satisfaction to himself. Impressed with this sentiment, he addressed a letter to the inhabitants of Canterbury, in which he took an affectionate leave of them, and is said to have mentioned to one of the principal citizens (perhaps the late Alderman Barham), "that they ought to choose a younger, and " more vigorous man, as a successor;—one who " had eyes to see, ears to hear, and lungs to oppose, the *tricks* of future ministers!"

From this period his history becomes that of a private gentleman. He resided constantly at Mountmorris, and lived equally without ostentation, and without meanness. He planted, improved, and embellished. His house was open to all, respectable strangers, and he was much visited, on account of the singularity of his manners, and the shrewdness of his remarks. A great friend to agriculture, his tenants in him experienced a most excellent landlord. As for himself, he seems to have banished the deer from his park, as an unprofitable luxury, and to have supplied their place with

* Lord North, in consequence of the memorable coalition!
black

black cattle and sheep, of which great numbers are always to be seen there.

It was most probably about this time that Mr. Robinson first permitted his beard to grow; for it must have taken many years to attain the *patriarchal* length which it at present assumes. He also addicted himself to many other seeming singularities; and imagining, perhaps, that sea-bathing was good for the disorder * he was chiefly afflicted with, he built a little hut on the beach near Hythe, about three miles from his own house, in order to enjoy the advantages resulting from it. It is most likely, however, that he indulged to excess in this *medicine*, for he frequently remained in the water, until he fainted.

Finding the distance too great, perhaps, for him to walk †, he constructed a bath, so contrived as to be rendered tepid by means of the rays of the sun only; it is immediately adjoining to his house, and he has found prodigious benefit from frequent ablations, or rather immersions therein‡.

On

* A disease of the intestines.

† He was generally accompanied in these excursions by a carriage, and a favourite servant, who got up behind when he was tired. Mr. Robinson, with his hat under his arm, proceeded slowly forward, on foot, towards Hythe, realising, as it were, the picture of Gray, in which he paints the venerable figure of one of the Welch poets:

—“ Loose his beard and hoary hair,
“ Stream'd like a meteor to a troubled air.”

If it happened to rain, he would make his attendants get into the post-chaise, observing, “ that they were gaudily dressed, “ and not inured to wet, therefore might spoil their clothes, “ and get ill.”

‡ The writer of this sketch, happening to be in the neighbourhood, towards the latter end of the summer of 1796, determined to see Mr. Robinson, who had then acceded to the title of Lord Rokeby. On his way to Mount-morris, at the summit of the hill above Hythe, which affords a most delightful prospect, he perceived a fountain of pure water over-running a basin which had been erected for it by his lordship.

He

On October 10th, 1794, he succeeded, by the death of his uncle, Richard Robinson, Bishop of Armagh, primate of Ireland, and Baron Rokeby of the same kingdom, to his honours as an Irish peer. The patent of creation was granted to that dignitary, February 26th, 1777, and by it the remainder is to vest in the present lord; but, as Mr. Robinson was either angry that his nephew, Matthew Robinson, who sat in the last parliament for Borough-bridge, in Yorkshire, should have been

He was informed that there were many such on the same road, and that Lord R. was accustomed to bestow a few half-crown pieces, plenty of which were always kept by him loose in a side-pocket, on any *water-drinkers*, he might happen to espy, partaking of his favourite beverage, which he was sure to recommend with peculiar force and persuasion.

On my approach to the house, I stopped during some time, in order to examine it. It is a good plain gentleman's seat; the grounds were abundantly stocked with black cattle, and I could perceive a horse or two on the steps of the principal entrance.

After the proper enquiries, I was carried by a servant to a little grove, to the right of the avenue, which being entered at a small swing-gate, a building with a glass covering, dipping obliquely towards the south-west, presented itself, which at first sight appeared to be a green-house. The man who accompanied me opened a little wicket, and, on looking in, I perceived a bath, immediately under the glass, with a current of water, supplied from a pond behind. On approaching a door, two handsome spaniels, with long ears, and apparently of King Charles's breed, approached, and like faithful guardians denied us access, until soothed into security by the well-known accents of the domestic. We then proceeded, and gently passing along a wooden floor, saw his lordship stretched on his face at the further end. He had just come out of the water, and was dressed in an old blue woollen coat, and pantaloons of the same colour. The upper part of his head was bald, but the hair on his chin, which could not be concealed, even by the posture he had assumed, made its appearance between his arms on each side.

I immediately retired, and waited at a little distance until he awoke; when arising, he opened the door, darted through the thicket, accompanied by his dogs, and made directly for the house, while some workmen employed in cutting timber, and whose tongues only I had heard before, now made the woods resound again with their axes.

so poorly left, after the splendid hopes held out to him, or really entertained objections to titles of all kinds; certain it is, that he declined the honorary appellation, and is said to have declared, that he could not on any account have accepted an English peerage, meaning thereby, perhaps, that he considered the former as merely *titular*.

Lord Rokeby is nearly eighty years of age; the upper part of his body, by assuming a *curvature*, makes him appear shorter than he would otherwise be. There are certain oddities discoverable in his dress, which is always plain, and even mean; his forehead is bald, but in return for this, the under-part of his face is well furnished with hair, which, however, gives somewhat of a squalid appearance to his whole person*. His food principally consists of beef-tea, which is always ready for him on a side-board; and he is very abstemious in respect to drink, water being esteemed by him as superior to all other liquids whatever. He abhors fires, and delights much in the enjoyment of the air, without any other canopy than the heavens; even in winter his windows are generally open. He was much attached to the fair sex in his youth, and even now is a great admirer of female beauty.

In respect to politics, his conduct through life, and to this very hour, has been eminently consistent; it is to principles, not men, that he looks up; and he seems to consider a Stewart, or a Guelph, entitled to our praise or our hatred, not on account of their names (for these have no magic with him!) but the difference of their respective modes of government.

At the last general election, he crossed the country to Lenham, and at the *Chequers* inn, at which he halted, was surrounded by the country people from all the adjoining parts, who took him for a Turk! Thence he proceeded to the poll-booth, and

* There is a pretty good likeness to be met with of Lord Rokeby, in the stationers' shops at Canterbury. It consists of a half-length coloured print.

gave his vote for his old friend Filmer Honeywood.

Many ridiculous stories are fabricated respecting his lordship, and among others, that he will not permit any of his tenants to sow barley, because barley may be converted into malt, and malt would pay a tax towards carrying on the war, which he conceives to be an unjust one, &c. &c.

The family of Lord Rokeby has long possessed a literary turn, and he himself may be justly considered as a man of letters. It was a relative of his who wrote the celebrated treatise on *gavel-kind*. His eldest sister, Mrs. Montagu, has triumphantly defended the memory and genius of Shakspeare, against the criticisms, perhaps, of the* greatest man of the day. His other sister, Mrs. Scott, who died in 1795, wrote several novels, some of which have attained considerable reputation; his nephew, and successor, Morris Robinson, has a taste for poetry; and Matthew Montague, the brother of the latter, and heir to the celebrated lady of the same name, is author of a pamphlet on Mr. Pitt's administration.

As for his lordship himself, he published the valuable, and now very *scarce* tract, alluded to before, and at an age when most old men think only of themselves, he has not been inattentive to what he considers the dearest interests of his country; having, in 1797, published an excellent pamphlet, entitled, "An Address to the County of Kent, on their Petition to the King for removing from the Councils of his Majesty his present Ministers, and for adopting proper means to procure a speedy and a happy Peace; together with a Postscript concerning the Treaty between the Emperor of Germany and France, and concerning our Domestic Situation in time to come."

In short, his lordship, *even independent of his beard*, which alone attracts the gaze of the multitude, may be considered as a very singular man.

* Voltaire.

He lives a considerable portion of his life in water, tempered by the rays of the sun.

He travels on foot at a time of life when men of his rank and fortune *always* indulge in a carriage.

He is abstemious, both in respect to eating and drinking, amidst a luxurious age, wallowing in the excesses of both.

He has attained to great longevity, without having recourse to the aid of pharmacy, and, indeed, with an utter contempt of the venders and practitioners of physic*, whose presence he is reported to have interdicted.

He has written a sensible pamphlet, at an age when every other man (Cornaro, perhaps, only excepted) has relinquished his pen.

By temperance, exercise, and perhaps, also, in consequence of frequent bathing, his body is so braced, as to enable him to sit in winter without a fire. He has also combated, during a long life, a very infirm constitution, and a disease generally considered as fatal.

And lastly, what is, perhaps, more singular than all the rest, he has been *wonderfully* consistent; for he has never once, in the whole course of his life, been found to swerve from his principles; in fine, he will carry to his grave the character of being virtuous and independent in a country becoming famous for its servility, venality, and corruption.

May the day that is to put an end to his existence be far off, and may his mind be cheered, at the last awful moment, with the recollection of his benevolence and his patriotism!

S.

* I have heard that when a *paroxysm* was expected to come on, his lordship has told his nephew, that if he staid he was welcome; but that if he called in medical assistance, out of a false humanity, and it should accidentally happen, that he (Lord R.) was not *killed by the doctor*, he hoped he should have sufficient use of his hands and senses left, to make a new will, and disinherit him!

LORD NELSON.

REAR-ADMIRAL, now Lord, Nelson, to whom his country is so much indebted for his brilliant services, is the fourth son of the Rev. Mr. Nelson, late rector of Burnham-Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk, in the parsonage-house of which parish his lordship was born, September 29th, 1758. His father's family came originally from Hilborough in the same county; where they possessed a small patrimony, and the patronage of the living. His mother was Miss Suckling, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Suckling, of Suffolk; grand-daughter of the late Sir Charles Turner, of Warham, of this county, by his lady, the sister of Sir Robert Walpole. Captain Suckling, his maternal uncle, was his lordship's early and very valuable friend in life. He was an officer in the sea-service; in which he first commanded the *Raisonable* of sixty-four guns; then the *Triumph*; and lastly died comptroller of the navy. This gentleman married a sister of the present Lord Walpole, and was, of course, much in Norfolk. He took young Nelson, at twelve years of age, from North Walsham-school, in the same county, and entered him as Midshipman on board the *Raisonable*. Here the nephew served some time, with the valuable officer who now commands that ship off the Mauritius; and with Captain Charles Boyles, his friend, and neighbour in the country, then also a midshipman: and from this ship they both removed with Captain Suckling into the *Triumph*, when he obtained the command of her.

On April the 10th, 1777, Mr. Nelson was made a lieutenant, and sent out by his uncle to Sir Peter Parker, in Jamaica, who then commanded upon that station. He was by Sir Peter shortly afterwards

wards made master and commander. On the 11th of June, 1779, he was appointed post captain, and at the conclusion of the American war, returned home. Captain Nelson was next sent out in the *Boreas* frigate, to the leeward island station; and had under him, his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, who commanded the *Pegasus*. Here the captain is said to have rendered a signal service to his Royal Highness, for which he afterwards honoured him with his friendship.

It was upon this station, and we believe about this period, that his lordship formed a matrimonial alliance with his present lady, Mrs. Nesbit, of Nevis; widow of Dr. Nesbit, physician, and niece to the governor of the island: and, when the marriage ceremony was performed, the Duke of Clarence, it is said, gave away the bride. And here it would be unjust not to mention a report, which does credit to the captain's integrity, and nice sense of honour; Mr. Herbert, governor of the island, was extremely rich, and had an only child; a daughter, who was to have inherited her father's fortune. By marrying without his consent, she had forfeited his esteem, and was upon the point of being disinherited in favour of his niece; when the admiral generously interfered; and had the pleasure, before his marriage, of restoring the daughter to her parents' affection, and the fortune to its natural channel.

While his lordship continued upon this station, he had under him a small squadron of frigates; and was particularly active in suppressing smuggling, a practice but too prevalent in those seas. This vigilance was acceptable to all parties, except the smugglers, and their friends; who threatened, and would actually have involved him in expensive litigations, had not the Admiralty interposed to rescue him from their malice.

Upon quitting the station, he returned to his native country, and, as there was no immediate call for his services, retired with Mrs. Nelson to the parsonage-

sonage-house at Burnham; which his father gave up to him, preferring a residence in the neighbourhood. In this retreat, his lordship led a quiet, domestic life for some years; like Gil Blas, at Llyrias, inclined to write over the door of his cottage:

"Inveni portum. Spes & Fortuna valet.

"Sat me lufistis: ludite nunc alios."

and, like him, inclined to return into the world, when more active scenes demanded his attendance.

By his lady, the admiral has no family; but there is a son of Lady Nelson, by her first marriage, (Mr. Nesbit,) who is a post-captain, and has served under his lordship during the whole period of the present war. Besides his wife, and her son, Lord Nelson has now living of his near relations, first, his father, who resides near Ipswich; next, his eldest brother Maurice, a clerk in the navy; two brothers, clergymen, William, Rector of Hilborough, Suckling, Rector of Burnham-Thorp; and two sisters, both married.

Upon the breaking out of the present war, his lordship was early appointed to the command of the *Agamemnon* of sixty-four guns. Of this ship's company, a considerable part was raised in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; and not a few in his own neighbourhood. The general opinion of his conduct and abilities, as an officer, was such, that several gentlemen were desirous to place their sons under his command; and some of considerable respectability solicited, and obtained this favour: in particular, the Rev. Mr. Bolton, his lordship's relation, and the Rev. Mr. Holte and Wetherhead, his friends, entered their sons as midshipmen on board the *Agamemnon*: and, it must be owned, that if they wished to give them a just knowledge of their profession, founded on a valuable body of experience, they could not have selected a better master. Poor Wetherhead fell nobly at Santa Cruz, the others still continue with his lordship, and have merited his esteem and affection.

R

From

From the commencement of the war, to the present moment, the public are in possession of the general out-lines of his lordship's life. During a considerable part of the time that he commanded the *Agamemnon* in the Mediterranean, scarcely a gazette appeared, but it contained an account of some service performed, or of some enterprize undertaken. If a merchantman was to be cut out of harbour, a battery to be dismounted, a town to be attacked;—the commodore generally placed himself in "the hottest battle," and exposed his person to the same danger as the meanest seaman. Such voluntary contempt of danger, although it is not always prudent in the commander, is certainly generous, and often leads to success. Men will do more, and with greater pleasure, when they find that nothing is required on one hand, but what is submitted to on the other: and great examples will justify great expectations.

In a profession like the sea-service, calculated to raise heroes, by inuring the mind to difficulty and enterprize, it would be unjust to extol one character at the expence of others; yet in the triumph of that glorious day, when lord St. Vincent, with a far inferior force, beat the Spanish fleet off cape St. Vincent, and captured four of their large ships, no inconsiderable share belongs to Nelson. The *San Joseph*, and the *San Nicholas*, both vessels of superior force, struck to him. The sword of the Spanish Admiral, which he received upon quarter-deck; and which the Spaniard refused to deliver to any but his lordship, he presented to the corporation of Norwich: as he has done lately that of the French Admiral Blanquet, to the corporation of London. Upon the occasion of the action off Cape St. Vincent, his lordship was created knight of the Bath; and, about the same time, Rear Admiral of the Blue.

In estimating Lord Nelson's services, it is not an individual achievement we have to admire, in which, perhaps, good fortune had at least as much share

share as good conduct ; but it is a series of successes, for the most part planned with judgment, and executed with spirit. "Some men," says Lord Bacon, "follow fortune, others *lead* her." The admiral appears to be of the last description. The glorious battle of the Nile, for which he has recently been rewarded with a peerage, has engaged so much attention, and has already been so minutely described, that it is unnecessary to enlarge here on the subject. It will stand upon record, as one proof, among many, of what British sailors, commanded by able officers, can effect in her arduous enterprizes. The celebrity of Lord Nelson's name, has added another laurel to the honours of a county, already distinguished for the eminent characters it has produced*. We learn from the history of Norfolk, that at the little village of Cockthorpe, not far from Burnham, three seamen of great celebrity were born ; namely, Sir John Narborough, Sir Cloudesley Shovel, and Sir Christopher Minns.

When men have raised themselves by their abilities to any unexpected elevation in the ranks of society, their habits in private life become objects of curious enquiry. Though the *great* man may shine in the bustle of the world, it has well been observed, that the *man* can only be seen in private.

Piety, or a just sense of the superintending providence of God—the virtue, without which all others are but as "dust and ashes"—has considerable influence on Lord Nelson's mind, as is known to his more intimate acquaintance ; and as may be collected from the proæmium of his dispatches to Earl St. Vincent, after the battle of the Nile : "My Lord, ———— "ALMIGHTY GOD has blessed his Majesty's arms by a great victory," &c. Parental piety, which the Romans esteemed so highly, as

* While the politician regards the late battle with an eye that includes *all Europe*, the rustics of Burnham observe, that it was fought on "Burnham fair-day ;" and consider this as not the least valuable circumstance attached to the event.

well as conjugal tenderness and affection for relations, which are the foundations of our social system, are also conspicuous in his character. His attention to his father was always remarkable; the old gentleman had a practice, when the weather permitted, of walking for an hour before dinner: the admiral, however occupied, scarcely ever failed to accompany him in these walks. When, after the unsuccessful attempt at Santa Cruz, his lordship lay ill, in consequence of the amputation of his right arm*, and it was uncertain what might be the event, it is said that his principal anxiety was for his relations, rather than himself; and that he wrote to the Admiralty with his left-hand, recommending Mr. Nesbit to their notice, in case he should die.

His attachment, however, to relations is not stronger than is his regard for strangers in distress. He entertains a just sense of the duties of benevolence†: instances of which might easily be adduced, did the limits of this memoir permit. And so strong are his feelings of private friendship, that, when returned from a distant climate, he has been known to shed tears upon meeting an old friend unexpectedly. To some, these circumstances may appear trivial, and light; but to others, no less discerning, they will appear interesting; because they display feelings inseparable from magnanimity, and afford the best insight into his real character.

When we compare Lord Nelson's present with his former fortune, and consider the early period of success and elevation in life, we may, perhaps, *inadvertently* conclude, that he has been exuberantly

* When Lord Nelson received the wound that shattered his right arm, he was in a boat, and held a sword that had been given him by his uncle, Captain Suckling, which he prized highly. Upon this occasion, he had the good fortune to save it from falling into the water, by catching it with his left hand. This circumstance is said to have given him peculiar pleasure.

† The noble Admiral, last winter, sent down a large collection of blankets to his native village, to be distributed among the poor.

rewarded.

rewarded. When, however, on the other hand, we call to mind the loss of an eye, and an arm, in the service of his country; a wound received in the head; a position carried, which the French, the best engineers in the world, deemed impregnable; an expedition frustrated that alarmed all Europe;—we must readily retract such conclusions. That he has risen to his present eminence without the co-operation of powerful friends, is perfectly unnecessary to remark. In a state of society, men are formed for each other, and exist by mutual support; but whatever favours of this kind Lord Nelson may have received, he has amply deserved by the merit of his conduct. How different this, from those cases, in which some men, without any personal abilities, are raised to the first ranks in society, by the mere *force of patronage*; and, like the stone of Sisyphus, are always likely to recoil on the heads of those that raised them!

In respect to person, Lord Nelson is about the middle height; thin, and somewhat inelegantly formed. He is a man of few words, and plain manners; but possesses great sincerity, and a sound understanding. He is evidently a man of genius; since no one but a master in the profession could have discovered the *only* point in which the French line was vulnerable, and have availed himself of it so dexterously. Although the attack at Aboukir was successful, it was not made without considerable hazard, since the Culloden, which should have led into action, under the command of an able officer, actually ran aground. During the last war, Admiral Barrington, in the West-Indies, took nearly a similar position to that of Aboukir; which was considered as impregnable: and, in fact, when the French made their attack upon him, such it proved.

In every point of view, we are warranted in concluding, that Lord Nelson has rendered a most important service to humanity by his late decisive and splendid victory. If the hostile cabinets of Europe should

should prudently avail themselves of its impression upon the enemy, and of the proud and commanding situation in which it has placed their forces, an honourable and glorious peace may be the happy result. The prospect of a general and lasting amnesty is, indeed, the only point of view in which the desolations of war can be, in any degree, tolerable to a feeling mind; the dreadful price of one victory, well improved, tends to prevent further effusions of blood. An enemy grows more reasonable as he becomes less powerful; and thus partial evil is productive of universal good. A. N. S.

LORD VISCOUNT HOOD,

ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE.

THE spirit of the christian religion is manifestly averse to war, but notwithstanding this, certain it is, no class of the community has produced a greater number of naval and military officers than the clergy of Great Britain.

The subject of this article was born in Somersetshire, and his father was first vicar of Butleigh, in that county, and then rector of Thornecombe, in Devonshire. His place of residence and education, after he had grown up, being in a maritime situation, gave him a taste for a seafaring life; and his propensity to that calling being irresistible, he was stationed on the quarter deck of a man-of-war, and entered on the books as a midshipman. Happening to serve under Admiral Smith, who sat as president of the famous court-martial on the unfortunate Byng, he attained the rank of lieutenant, by his patronage, and distinguished himself, on various occasions, by his personal intrepidity: in consequence of one act of gallantry in particular, he received

ceived a wound in the hand, but happily effected his purpose, which was the most desperate an officer can be employed in—that of cutting out and capturing a vessel belonging to the enemy, by means of an armed boat.

In the beginning of the memorable contest, denominated from the period of its duration *the seven years war*, he was promoted to the rank of post-captain, and soon after obtained the *Vestal*, a frigate of thirty-two guns. Having left Portsmouth, on the 13th of February, 1759, under Admiral Holmes, and happening to be to windward, he descried the *Bellona*, a French vessel of equal force, commanded by Count Beauhonoir; on this, Captain Hood instantly made sail *a-head*, came to close quarters, and commenced and continued an action of nearly four hour's duration, which ended in the capture of his antagonist.

On this occasion, he certainly had the advantage over the enemy, in what is emphatically termed a *clear ship*, just out of port, while the count's had been distant many months from Europe, and was then on her return from Martinico, which had been attacked by an English squadron, and soon after surrendered to his Majesty's arms. This, however, was considered as so gallant an action, that the famous circumnavigator, Lord Anson, then at the head of the Admiralty, presented the young captain to George II. and had the command of the *Africa* of sixty-four guns immediately conferred upon him, as a reward for his conduct.

On the peace of Paris, Captain Hood, with a crowd of other brave sea-officers, as well as the vessels they had commanded, were *laid up in ordinary*. He, however, had the good fortune to be moored in a very prosperous birth; for knowing that interest in times of tranquillity was to the full as good as merit during hostilities, and induced,

induced, no doubt, also by the still more powerful seductions of love and attachment, he had contrived, in 1753, to form a matrimonial alliance with Miss Susanna Lindzee, daughter of the Mayor of Plymouth, a gentleman who possessed great interest in the corporation. By this lady, he had a son, born in the course of the succeeding year, who is now the Honourable Captain Hood, an officer not inferior to his father in point of bravery and enterprize, and who has distinguished himself very eminently in the course of the present war, by the seaman-like conduct he displayed in escaping from the batteries of Toulon, the port of which he had entered under the idea of its being still in the possession of the English.

When the unfortunate contest took place with America, the subject of these memoirs accepted a command, and it is not a little memorable, that but one * military, and no one naval officer, seemed to think it either unconstitutional or unjust. In November, 1768, we find him on the Boston station, and it is much to his honour, that while General Gage, and some other officers, were deceiving the nation and the ministry, about the quiet and peaceable disposition of the inhabitants in general, and anticipating the speedy punishment of Washington, Adams, Hancock, &c. then denominated "rebels" but now recognised by recent treaties among "our good and faithful allies," he boldly and manfully told the truth, and described the colonies as in a state of ferment and dissatisfaction, not easily to be quieted.

In a short time, France, governed by the usual policy of states, and deeming this a fair opportunity, by dismembering the colonies, to lessen the strength and diminish the resources of Great Britain, determined to exert herself in behalf of America; and soon after the capture of General Burgoyne, Louis XVI. entered into a commercial treaty with that

* Lord Effingham, afterwards governor of Jamaica.

power, now aspiring to attain the independence which it had meditated and proclaimed: On this, the king of England withdrew his ambassador from Versailles, and declared war.

The dominions of France being supposed most vulnerable in the extremities, it was determined to send a powerful fleet to the West-Indies. Sir Samuel Hood, now an admiral*, and a baronet, went thither, and soon distinguished by his intrepidity and skill, particularly in the Basse Terre, Road, February, 1782; when, with an inferior fleet, he foiled the Count de Grasse. That officer, who began to be celebrated, in consequence of his exploits in America, intended to make a descent on Barbadoes, the oldest of our settlements in the West-Indies; but being driven to leeward by the currents, he determined to attack St. Kitts, at which place he had arrived with twenty-nine two-deckers; but the English squadron, consisting of only twenty-two large ships, formed a line of battle, and manœuvred in such a manner as to entice the French admiral to quit the anchorage, which was instantly occupied by his more dexterous antagonist. Next morning, Sir Samuel was attacked by the whole French fleet, but he gave them so warm a reception, that they were soon obliged to sheer off†. Notwithstanding this service, and the prediction of the English commander respecting the defence of the Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts soon after surrendered to General Bouille, then a most enterprising commander, and now an emigrant in this country.

* He received his flag in 1780.

† "Many of the French ships must have suffered very considerably, and the Ville de Paris was upon the heel all the next day, covering her shot-holes. By information from the shore, the French ships have sent to St. Eustatius upwards of 1000 wounded men."

Letter from Sir S. Hood, Bart. to Mr. Stephens of the Admiralty.

In

In the important victory of the 12th of April, of the same year, which would have been still more memorable in the annals of Great Britain, had it not been eclipsed by the brilliant achievements of a recent period, we find Admiral Hood acting as second in command; and it is thus that Sir George Brydges Rodney, Bart. commander in chief, speaks of his services in his dispatches, dated Formidable, April 14th, 1782.

"It has pleased God, out of his divine providence, to grant to his Majesty's arms a most complete victory over the fleets of his enemies, commanded by Count de Grasse, who is himself captured, with the Ville de Paris, and four other ships, besides one sunk in the action.

"Both fleets have greatly suffered; but it is with the highest satisfaction I can assure their lordships, that though the masts, sails, rigging, and hulls of the British fleets are damaged, yet the loss of men has been so small, considering the length of the battle, and the close action they so long sustained, and in which both fleets looked upon the honour of their king and country to be most essentially concerned. The great supply of naval stores lately arrived in the West-Indies, will, I flatter myself, soon repair all the damages his Majesty's fleet has sustained,

"The gallant behaviour of the officers and men of the fleet I have the honour to command, has been such as must for ever endear them to all the lovers of their king and country. The noble behaviour of my second in command, SIR SAMUEL HOOD, Bart. * who in both actions most conspicuously exerted himself, demands my warmest encomiums. My third in command, Rear Admiral Drake, who with his division led the battle on the 12th, deserves the highest praise, &c."

Immediately after the engagement, Admiral Samuel Hood, to whom the French Admiral had struck his colours, was dispatched by Sir George to the Mona Passage, in order to intercept such

* Sir Samuel on this occasion led the van division, consisting of the Royal Oak, Alfred, Montague, Yarmouth, Valiant, Barfleur, Monarch, Warrior, Belliqueux, Centaur, Magnificent, and William. He himself was stationed on board the Barfleur of 90 guns; his own captain was Knight; the other captains were Burnett, who led the whole on the star-board tack, and Bayne, Bowen, Parry, Goodall, Reynolds, Wallace (Sir James), Sutherland, Inglefield, Linzee, and Wilson.

of

of the enemy's squadron as might endeavour to escape in that direction. In consequence of this, he captured two line-of-battle ships and two frigates, on the 9th of April, 1782, with the loss of only six killed and fourteen wounded, and on the commander in chief's repairing to Port-Royal harbour, in Jamaica, with the enemy's ships, and such of his own squadron as were crippled, he left his second, with all the men-of-war capable of keeping the sea, amounting to about twenty-five sail of the line, off Cape François, in St. Domingo, with a view to watch the enemy's motions, and prevent any further hostile movements on their part.

The peace, that soon after ensued, once more interrupted the professional exertions of Admiral Hood; he was now decorated, however, with Irish honours, and launched by the ministry on the ocean of politics. Sir George Rodney having been created an English baron, a vacancy for Westminster ensued, and it was fondly hoped that the tide of popularity would set in so strong in that city, which is the usual residence of royalty, that he would be returned without difficulty; this, however, proved fallacious, and his son experienced the mortification of being obliged to withdraw his father's name*.

At the dissolution of parliament, in 1784, the conduct of the coalition ministry had so thoroughly disgusted the nation, that his lordship once more started, and that too under more fortunate auspices; for we find that during the memorable struggle, in which Sir Cecil Wray and Mr. Fox were rival candidates, the name of the gallant admiral Hood at the head of the poll.

In the preceding parliament he also represented the same constituents; but they were so disappointed in respect to his exertions, and so thoroughly disgusted with his attachment to the ministry, in opposition to their declared sentiments, that at the

* Lord John Townshend was the successful candidate.

last general election he deemed it prudent to accept of a peerage, instead of an elective seat in parliament; and administration having thus secured him an honourable retreat, they immediately put another of their naval adherents into nomination, who, after a celebrated contest, proved finally successful.

No sooner had a contest with France taken place, than the eyes of the people and the cabinet were directed towards the most able commanders in the naval service, and fixed in particular on Lord Hood. That nobleman was accordingly placed at the head of a powerful fleet, and sent to the Mediterranean. France, at this moment, was distracted by civil broils, and a grand effort was now made by the English ministry, in conjunction with the royalists of the south, to dismember the empire, or at least to destroy one of her grand naval arsenals. We accordingly find Admiral Lord Hood taking possession of Toulon, and holding it for several months. It was destined, however, that a sudden change of fortune should restore the second sea-port to the republic. Accordingly that place being invested, General O'Hara, the governor, who had made a *sortie*, was unfortunately wounded, and taken prisoner; and Lord Hood's dispatch from on board the Victory, announcing this event, was blamed for being less delicate than the occasion required. Soon after this the troops under General Dugommier stormed and took the heights, and such was the resolution of the besieging army, and the conduct of Ricard, Freron, Barras, and Robespierre, jun. joined to the skill of young Buonaparte, then acting as an engineer, that the town soon ceased to be tenable.

In consequence of this event, it was at length determined to evacuate the place; and as it would have been cruel to have left such of the natives as had preferred the dominion of England to that of their own country, the men-of-war were crowded with the wretched inhabitants; and on board the
the

the **Robust** alone, although she is but a third rate, about 2,300 of them were brought off.

On this occasion, ten sail of the line in the harbour, and three sail of the line on the stocks, were destroyed, under the directions of Sir Sidney Smith, then acting as a volunteer, and three sail of the line and four frigates were brought off*.

Immediately after these memorable exploits, Lord Hood quitted the outer bay of Toulon, and rendezvoused with his fleet at the Hieres, where they were lucky enough to shelter themselves during a very heavy gale of wind.

But it was not to the capture of this great arsenal, that the admiral confined his exploits. Early in the same year, he had blockaded the port of Genoa, which was loudly exclaimed against at that period, as an infringement of the laws of nations, and a gross violation of the neutrality of that petty, but *then* independent, state. Our fleet in the Mediterranean also bridled the grand Duke of Tuscany, and forced him into compliances which, had it not been for his powerful family alliances, might have ended in the annihilation of his petty sovereignty.

In February, his lordship had also made an unsuccessful attack on the island of Corsica; from which he was obliged to desist in consequence of a violent gale of wind, which drove him to sea; and on the 29th of the same month he anchored at Porto Ferraro. The next attempt on Corsica proved infinitely more fortunate; for that little state,

* Here follows a summary of the particulars of that celebrated event:

Burnt	-	-	-	15
Escaped the flames	-	-	-	8
Brought off by Lord Hood	-	-	-	3
Burnt at Leghorn (Le Scipio)	-	-	-	1
Sent to Brest with refractory seamen	-	-	-	4

31

N. B. The French assert that several men-of-war, supposed to have been burnt by the English, have since been equipped and sent to sea.

which

which Genoa affected to denominate a kingdom, and which conferred "a barren crown" on the head of Theodore, was annexed, for a short time, to the dominions of Great Britain; but after swallowing up immense wealth, it was *happily* for the nation wrested from us by the enemy.

After performing these services, Lord Hood retired to his native land; and notwithstanding he is now in the vale of years, he is equally ready, as before, to hoist his blue jack, and command the squadrons of his country.

His majesty at all times has been ready to reward his merits. He was created a baronet when the king visited the fleet at Portsmouth, in 1783, at which time he was port-admiral there, in the room of Admiral Pye, then lately deceased; in September, 1783, he became a baron of Ireland; and on May 28th, 1796, a viscount of Great Britain. His lady was created a peeress of Great Britain, March 27th, 1795, and his brother, Alexander-Arthur, Admiral of the White, Vice-Admiral of Great-Britain, a Knight of the Bath, and Baron of Great Britain, May 28th, 1796.

The heralds, in allusion to the element on which he has distinguished himself, have given him a *brace* of mermaids for supporters; and the motto

"VENTIS SECUNDIS,"

must be allowed to be peculiarly appropriate.



FINIS.

